

WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Pike's Landing
Fairbanks, Alaska
October 11, 2017
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Reakoff, Chairman
Fred Alexie
Ray Collins
Timothy Gervais
Don Honea
Jenny Pelkola
Pollock Simon
Dennis Thomas
Darrel Vent

Regional Council Coordinator, Zach Stevenson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 10/11/2017)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll call the meeting back to order. Yeah, you want to catch him. We got a lot of agenda to go here. We're on proposals but the first thing out in the morning is the public and tribal comments on non-agenda items. And Julia from the Northern Environmental Center wanted to speak to us. Come on up Julia. Anybody else in the room want to speak on non-agenda items.

(No comments)

MR. STEVENSON: Blue cards.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, blue cards, you got to fill out blue cards. There's blue cards in the back of the room there, you should fill out a blue card, I guess.

So go ahead.

MS. MICKLEY: Thank you. It's good to be here and good to see all of you and some of you I know and some of you I hope to know soon. My name is Julia Mickley. I work as the clean water and mining coordinator at the Northern Alaska Environmental Center. My background here in Alaska is in wildland firefighting and I've been at the Northern Alaska Center for the last two years, and still working on EFF crews in the summer.

I would like to bring to the Board's attention, to the Committee's attention, the proposed Ambler Road. I've handed out some fact sheets and maps for you to observe. And I'd like to first talk about where we are in the process with the proposed Ambler Road.

So if you look at the timeline, I think that will be helpful to get a sense of where this project is. It's gone on and off the radar, back and forth, but right now it is in the scoping period and agencies are accepting comments. This means that communities and the public have until January to submit

1 concerns to agencies. There are two separate
2 processes. If you look at the map, the Park Service is
3 mandated to choose a route through Gates of the Arctic
4 National Preserve so there is currently two routes
5 listed on the map and they are seeking input on which
6 route to choose. Their comments are due January 15th.
7 The BLM comments are on the entire route and those
8 comments are due January 30th. They'll use these
9 comments to develop a draft environmental impact
10 statement in the future if it goes to that point.
11 Currently agencies have communicated with me that there
12 has not been a plan to move forward beyond scoping,
13 however, AIDEA's application -- Alaska Industrial
14 Development and Export Authority, who is moving the
15 project forward has not communicated that in their
16 application and they also, on their website, have a
17 hope for the road to be in use by 2022. So there's a
18 little bit of discrepancy about what happens after
19 scoping.

20
21 I'd like to talk a little bit about
22 possibilities and concerns. The possibilities this
23 project mainly offers are more opportunity, increased
24 opportunity for mining access along the Brooks Range
25 Corridor, in particular, the Ambler mining district.

26
27 There's concern from subsistence users
28 about negative impacts. And I'll just back up to who
29 I've been working with and communicating with. This
30 project has been on my radar for the last two years and
31 our organization had been working on it long before
32 that. I'm in communication with about seven to 10
33 different environmental organizations. I communicate
34 regularly with the Park Service, BLM, the Army Corps of
35 Engineers, Alaska Industrial Development and Export
36 Authority. Last week I met with Doyon. I've been
37 trying to get in touch with NANA. I've emailed every
38 community that has been contacted to submit comments
39 and I have tried to attend as many community meetings
40 on this as I can. This summer I was in Allakaket when
41 Mallot visited and I also was in Alatna for TCC's
42 regional meeting.

43
44 There are a number of concerns that
45 I've heard in relation to this project from communities
46 on subsistence. I'd like to read some quotes that I
47 wrote down from the Allakaket meeting.

48
49 Leave the spawning areas alone.
50

1 This is from Nulato's first chief.

2
3 Preserve what you have. Louden Tribal
4 Council. And they presented a letter of opposition at
5 that meeting.

6
7 Allakaket's Tribal administrator Alisa
8 said, in 10 years I envision the kids asking where's
9 the caribou, where's the fish, why didn't you stop the
10 road.

11
12 That's the same comment that the elders
13 brought BLM during the Central Yukon Resource
14 Management Plan meeting in -- I think it was in
15 February. They said a new road would bring harm and
16 that they'd seen that happen with the Haul Road going
17 through. That the caribou used to come through
18 Allakaket and don't anymore.

19
20 You have to consider these people
21 before you do this. We're relying on subsistence. The
22 State would have to provide assistance for store bought
23 food. The effects of the road on the people would be
24 great because food is so linked with tradition, their
25 identity as Athabascan people would be compromised.
26 That's Virginia Commack from Ambler. They would like
27 to see the area preserved for generations to come, and
28 Ambler has hired two people to do a historic analysis
29 of how they're using their subsistence resources in
30 their region.

31
32 I've listed on the fact sheet the
33 communities that have resolutions in opposition. But
34 I've also listed the communities that I've heard
35 publicly vocally oppose the road just so that you're
36 aware of the climate.

37
38 Below Ambler mining district, Ambler,
39 Kobuk and Shungnak it's not as clearcut what they
40 specifically where they have concerns and they also
41 have some hopes but the communities along the Koyukuk,
42 almost all of the communities are opposed. You know
43 that just as well as I do and I hope that I'm
44 representing correctly.

45
46 Agencies are required to identify which
47 places are important for hunting, fishing and gathering
48 and they must identify areas that should be protected
49 and where no go zones are and so I'm calling on the
50

1 Committee to address that need, to write comments and
2 to publicly make available your perspective so that it
3 can be considered.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions or
8 comments from the Council.

9
10 Tim.

11
12 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Thanks for your presentation.

14
15 So is scoping, is that like a legal
16 term or process where exact things need to happen and
17 certain standards need to be met or what is -- I'm not
18 familiar with how encompassing or how casual of a
19 process it is.

20
21 MS. MICKLEY: It begins by agencies
22 reaching out to communities and asking them how and if
23 they want to participate in the process. They hold
24 community meetings. Those meetings have not publicly
25 been announced, the schedule yet, but we should be
26 hearing in the next couple weeks when those meetings
27 will be and any community can participate in them.
28 Communities also have opportunity to be cooperating,
29 agencies and have government to government
30 consultation, which is what the community meetings
31 would be. The scoping period is used to gather
32 information and that information will then be put into
33 a report and will be utilized in creating a draft
34 environmental impact statement. So that will be
35 utilized when they make their list of alternatives.

36
37 So this is in the preliminary gathering
38 information stage.

39
40 What needs to be included. What's
41 important. What are concerns. Why are they concerns.

42
43 MR. GERVAIS: Follow-up.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

46
47 MR. GERVAIS: So Alaska Industrial
48 Development Authority is in charge of the scoping?

49
50

1 MS. MICKLEY: Negative. Alaska
2 Industrial Development and Export Authority took the
3 project on from DOT because of community opposition.
4 So this project at this point is being pursued as a
5 private road that mining companies would need to pay
6 tolls to use and it would not be available to the
7 public. There's a lot of question on how that would
8 look and I think it would be great if people could
9 submit comments on what that would look like.

10
11 But Alaska Industrial Development and
12 Export Authority, they carry the -- they're the
13 developers, essentially, and then the agencies are the
14 land managers.

15
16 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. And then just one
17 more, Jack.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

20
21 MR. GERVAIS: Julia, what's NANA's
22 support or opposition to the road?

23
24 MS. MICKLEY: I have not been
25 successful in meeting with NANA yet. And what I've
26 heard wind of is just -- or I guess the facts are that
27 NANA does have a deposit on their property so borenite
28 deposit is on NANA property. Borenite is an
29 exploration stage and it hadn't been explored for about
30 five years and then they had more money to put into it
31 this summer and did exploration to see the size of the
32 project.

33
34 So what I've heard from Doyon about
35 NANA's stance is that they're curious and wanting to
36 know more but I haven't seen a direct push from them or
37 encountered a direct push from them.

38
39 MR. GERVAIS: All right. We'll go to
40 Fred over here first.

41
42 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, I have a question.
43 That road that they put in here just recently going
44 from Tanana -- Manley to Tanana.....

45
46 MS. MICKLEY: Uh-huh.

47
48 MR. ALEXIE:am I seeing correctly
49 that it's the start of the Ambler Road?

50

1 MS. MICKLEY: Yes, that's incorrect.
2 The Ambler Road, the current proposed route leads -- it
3 branches off the Haul Road between the Middle and
4 SouthFork of the Koyukuk and then goes straight west
5 across the Gates of the Arctic National Preserve and it
6 would end at the Ambler River.

7
8 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. I have more.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

11
12 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, you know, the
13 Federal government, you know, backs us on our
14 subsistence needs. Like who do we contact in regards
15 to, you know, our Native Village Tribes, who do we
16 contact saying we oppose, like to our government, BLM
17 or who?

18
19 MS. MICKLEY: I think, in general, if
20 you oppose and write a resolution that it's good to
21 send it out to lots of people.

22
23 MR. ALEXIE: Yes.

24
25 MS. MICKLEY: You can -- on the fact
26 sheets I've listed whom to send comments to for BLM and
27 for the Park Service, but it also could be sent to your
28 legislator. It could be sent to the news. Yeah.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel. Darrel had
31 a comment or question, go ahead, Darrel.

32
33 MR. VENT: Yeah, I was there in
34 Allakaket during that meeting. I know there was a lot
35 of opposition. I think you asked me to get that
36 resolution in and we got the resolution but I lost your
37 address so I didn't send it to you.

38
39 But I think there's some concern there
40 because, you know, we're having a tough time with our
41 salmon right now and if you disturbed our beds and
42 something happens there and we can't change it, there's
43 nothing we could do to turn it back. There's no way --
44 the only thing you'd be able to do is hatcheries and I
45 don't think that would, you know, help us up there
46 because the people are worried about our subsistence
47 use. And like I spoke about how the caribou used to
48 migrate through our village. When they put the Haul
49 Road in they said they said it ain't going to affect us

50

1 and it did affect us, you know, we don't see caribou
2 anymore, there's nothing there. And, you know, we had
3 -- when you talk about like ACECs where, you know, find
4 our areas of critical concern that, you know, our areas
5 we put a proposal in, Wayne did, and we're still in the
6 process of working on that ACEC. We probably got to
7 get Wayne back up there in Huslia again to try to get
8 some more work done on that because we need that study
9 done on what areas we use to hunt and gather and that
10 way we could let you guys know what we're concerned
11 about.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.

16
17 MR. SIMON: My name is Pollock Simon,
18 Sr., I live in Allakaket. This road would be for
19 private mining industry -- okay. Well, it's like the
20 similar thing about the Haul Road what started in 1974,
21 the oil back then, the Haul Road, they said it would be
22 for industrial use only but the road was later turned
23 over to the State and flux of people goes up, it's open
24 to the public so flux of peoples come up the Haul Road,
25 not only to look at the mountains but also to go hunt
26 and fish and trap in the same area, land that we use.
27 So this -- it impacted our way of life. So is it going
28 to be private managed road for how long?

29
30 MS. MICKLEY: Ask the agencies that
31 question in your comments.

32
33 MR. SIMON: Okay. Well, that's part of
34 the concern of the people of Allakaket, the elders are
35 concerned about the caribou migration. The Haul Road,
36 old pipeline road impacted the migration of the caribou
37 which was coming into our area, come down the Koyukuk
38 River, since they put in that Haul Road and the traffic
39 distracted the caribou, they go more to the west. In
40 1974 was the last time there was caribou seen right
41 outside of Allakaket. So any road would impact --
42 development would impact the migration of the caribou.
43 Around Allakaket, upper Koyukuk River there's low
44 density of moose and the king salmon hasn't returned,
45 and the caribou hasn't returned for 12 years now so
46 there's hardship off the land around that area, and
47 we're being restricted to taking all the king salmon
48 that we want so that's part of the reason that the
49 village of Allakaket and Alatna are opposed to the
50

1 road.

2
3 And AIDEA has been coming in last
4 several years and had meetings with the people, ask
5 questions, and most the times we oppose whatever they
6 suggest because in planning purposes -- we never take
7 any part in their planning, they -- so that's part of
8 the reason that we oppose when you come to the village,
9 here's the plan, we don't even know what's in the plan
10 and so the community wouldn't support it. If villages
11 would take -- come to the table if we were invited to
12 the table and talk with us and say what we are afraid
13 of, or we like, then maybe things would be a little bit
14 different. But if they just come to our village and
15 just say this is going to be the road here, this is
16 what we planned, most of the time we oppose it.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment is this
21 road would have wider impact than just the road it
22 serves itself. It's an industrial road, anybody can
23 paperstake a mining claim for \$35 on State lands, that
24 gives them the opportunity to use the private road
25 because they're an industrial user. How do I know that
26 because that's exactly the way the Dalton Highway that
27 was closed to the public and people paperstaked mining
28 claims north of the check point and there were hundreds
29 of hunters hunting caribou up north of the Brooks Range
30 when the road was closed because they were industrial
31 users; it's an industrial road.

32

33 So this road is not going to be closed
34 to the public.

35

36 Don't ever let the DOT or anybody ever
37 lead you to believe that that's going to happen because
38 everybody will paperstake mining claims, they bring
39 their Argos, they bring all these -- and there's no ATV
40 restrictions, they'll bring boats, they can utilize the
41 entire western Brooks Range by dumping those boats in
42 the Kobuk River. They'll have a phenomenal impact on
43 the caribou migration routes of the Teshekpuk and
44 Western Arctic Caribou, they'll have huge impacts to
45 the sheefish populations in the Kobuk River, in the
46 Alatna River spawning areas, critical habitats are
47 these spawning habitats in the Alatna River and the
48 Kobuk. Those two spawning habitats, two different
49 river systems are right next to each other right where

50

1 the road is going to be built. There's phenomenal
2 amounts of summer chum salmon spawning areas, the
3 Henshaw Creek, the Alatna River, the Malmiut Fork of
4 the John and the Alatna River, and the whole Kobuk
5 River is a phenomenal spawning area for chum salmon.
6 There's phenomenal amounts of resources that would be
7 impacted by this road.

8
9 The mining industry -- I read an
10 article in the -- the mining industry itself wanted a
11 railroad to Port Darby over in Norton Sound. They
12 didn't really -- they don't want to ship mineral
13 through the Interior of Alaska, they would rather have
14 a railroad but AIDEA and everybody's trying to jam this
15 road down everybody's throat. There's no discussion
16 about the railroad option to tidewater, which is what
17 they do at Red Dog, they ship the mineral right to tide
18 water, and that way you ship it off on barges to the
19 markets. So the industry, itself, is not such a big
20 proponent of the road as the State of Alaska is. The
21 State of Alaska wants this road to resources. There's
22 huge hunting entities in Alaska that want more roads
23 built into hunting and fishing resources.

24
25 So don't ever get the idea that this is
26 a closed road to the public. That road will be open
27 because people will be able to paperstake mining claims
28 and everybody and their brother will be driving on that
29 road. It'll be just like the Haul Road. They built
30 the Haul Road in 1974, by the early '80s there were
31 hundreds of hunters coming up there. Hundreds. There
32 are literally thousands of hunters that hunt that road
33 annually.

34
35 So this Council should write a letter
36 during this comment period on the impacts to resources
37 of the Ambler Road. We should write comments to the
38 BLM because part of the road starts on the BLM lands
39 and so the BLM should be aware of the same comments.
40 And so I would like a letter promulgated by the Council
41 to reflect the concerns of the massive amounts of
42 opportunity, because it will not be closed, if they
43 charge a toll, people will pay the toll, if they charge
44 them \$50 a trip or whatever they're going to charge
45 them, they'll pay that, they'll pay \$35 for a permit,
46 basically the permit is the mining claim on the State
47 lands over there. So we got to enumerate the various
48 impacts to the various subsistence resources and those
49 should also be included -- those concerns should be

50

1 included in our annual report. An annual report topic
2 to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Federal agencies
3 should be aware, US Fish and Wildlife, National Park
4 Service and the BLM should be aware that we're
5 concerned -- this Council's under .805 is to enumerate
6 various concerns about fish and wildlife resources that
7 would be impacted.

8
9 So I'll entertain a motion to
10 promulgate a letter of comment to the agencies that
11 need -- that have timeframes, that would be this BLM
12 Ambler Road comments for the BLM; and then this comment
13 to the National Park Service.

14
15 And then is this comment, the BLM
16 comment goes through to AIDEA then or how does AIDEA
17 get the comments. What's their -- they're taking
18 comments right now, what's their address?

19
20 MS. MICKLEY: AIDEA is the applicant.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

23
24 MS. MICKLEY: And I can send that to
25 you to send out or to Zach to send out to the
26 Committee.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Send it to Zach,
29 yeah.

30
31 So we need to make the same comment to
32 various entities on this Ambler Road. This thing is a
33 lot bigger than most people think it is. Because of
34 the all terrain vehicle use, some of those places they
35 could go for miles up those drainages with ATVs, they
36 can go all the way to Kotzebue with boats. It will
37 transect -- completely transect all Western Arctic
38 Caribou migration routes, period. There will be
39 reallocation of the caribou resource to the urban
40 hunters and non-resident hunters that will come by the
41 thousands to hunt on that road.

42
43 So this is not a little deal, it's kind
44 of a big deal for the Western Interior region.

45
46 So is the feeling of the Council to
47 submit comments on the impacts of that Ambler Road, do
48 we have a motion to promulgate that letter of concern
49 on the various resources?

50

1 MR. VENT: Yes, Jack, I think we should
2 do that. So I would put in the proposal.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A motion to.....

5
6 MR. VENT: A motion.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:promulgate a
9 comment letter.

10
11 MR. VENT: To send a comment letter to
12 the different agencies.

13
14 MR. THOMAS: And to the newspapers and
15 to the Governor.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, we can't.....

20
21 MR. VENT: To anybody that's concerned.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to have
24 the Hatch Act, we can't write to the Governor.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so do we have a
29 second on that.

30
31 MR. ALEXIE: Second.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second on that
34 motion. Discussion on that letter for further
35 inclusions.

36
37 MR. THOMAS: Question.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Darrel's got one
40 more comment.

41
42 MR. VENT: Yeah, it's just that what
43 she stated was that this was one of the routes that
44 could be used and this one seems really concerning to
45 us and they keep telling us that, you know, we want
46 this route, we want this route, and there's other
47 routes. I mentioned that before that, you know,
48 there's other routes that they have there, they could
49 take the other routes but then it goes through Boroughs

50

1 and stuff like that so it's a complicated procedure for
2 them so they figure they'll take the easiest route
3 which is through our area.

4
5 I'd just like to mention that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Zach, you have a
8 comment.

9
10 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 By way of context, and I just wanted to provide some
12 background information, the potential road route that
13 is shown on the map here is only one of many. And I'm
14 aware of this through my previous professional work for
15 the Northwest Arctic Borough. And previously the -- if
16 you look at this map here in front of you, what you'll
17 notice is that the area that's identified in olive
18 green, the darker green, that's the Gates of the Arctic
19 National Park and Preserve, and that's in the center
20 portion of the map and to the upper left region you see
21 the Noatak National Preserve, those are Federal public
22 lands and the area that's in lighter green, those are
23 Borough lands, in the left portion of the map, which
24 are administered or managed by both tribal governments
25 and the Northwest Arctic Borough. And that implies
26 that the permitting for that potential road allotment,
27 or road alignment or any road alignment, in fact, would
28 involve not only the Federal government but also
29 Borough governments as well.

30
31 So as -- I believe it was Member Vent,
32 Darrel Vent was mentioning a moment ago, you've got a
33 complex land ownership here that would be at play. It
34 involves not only Federal government addressing the
35 ownership of -- or management of Federal public lands,
36 but also municipal and State government as well.

37
38 So there's multiple entities involved,
39 both in the potential design of this -- of a potential
40 road alignment but also the permitting of that
41 potential road system as well so I wanted to underscore
42 that just to imply or to make clear that there are
43 multiple land owners at stake. And we'll discuss a
44 little bit later, to connect the dots here, the further
45 information on the potential impacts to Federally-
46 qualified subsistence users and that will be addressed
47 further in Marcy Okada's presentation and she has an
48 ongoing study that was presented previously at our last
49 meeting by Dr. Annette Watson, so I just wanted to make
50

1 that clear.

2
3 The other point I wanted to provide by
4 way of background and context, is that the Northwest
5 Arctic Borough had previously mapped areas that are
6 important to subsistence in their coastal, or near
7 coastal communities, however, that same work has not
8 been done in their interior. So I just wanted to point
9 out that there's existing information on areas that are
10 important for hunting, fishing, gathering by season in
11 their coastal communities, however, the inner areas of
12 Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk, and Kiana have -- the
13 important subsistence use has not been mapped by the
14 Northwest Arctic Borough and I believe that some of
15 that information is being documented now through the
16 Park Service, through Gates of the Arctic National Park
17 and Preserve.

18
19 And so I just wanted to make that
20 background information clear.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And we
25 will draw those informations together in our letter, in
26 our comment.

27
28 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

31
32 MS. PELKOLA: I don't know if this
33 would help but would we be able to, through the letter,
34 that we're going to draft, or you explained it pretty
35 well about what's going to happen to the land, I don't
36 know how much Ambler, Kobuk and Shungnak and that area
37 knows the impact that's going to happen to this,
38 because of this road.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm on the Gates of
41 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission and our past
42 Chair, Louie Commack, who's really concerned, and
43 there's several people in the Kobuk country that are
44 real concerned about the impacts, they have the
45 foresight to know what is going to happen, they're real
46 concerned about this road coming in over there so, yes,
47 they are very aware of that.

48
49 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. And also this

50

1 letter that we're going to write, I don't know if we
2 can make it stronger by all signing it or just you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Our Council, if this
5 motion passes, it has the strength of the Council, it's
6 not just me, it's the entire Council that's adopting
7 it.

8
9 Any further discussion on the motion on
10 the floor.

11
12 MR. THOMAS: Call for the question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
15 Those in favor of submitting that letter of comment to
16 the various agencies and entities signify by saying
17 aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

22
23 (No opposing votes)

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, very much
26 Julia. Appreciate that.

27
28 MS. MICKLEY: Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any other persons
31 on the phone or in the room want to make comments on
32 non-agenda items.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, we'll
37 go back to our.....

38
39 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

42
43 MS. PELKOLA: If there's none, I was
44 just waiting for -- if there's none on the phone I
45 think Loudon put a proposal in and I don't know when
46 that's going to be discussed, about that drifting
47 between Galena and Ruby and I don't know if we could
48 express our concern about that here at the table.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You could You could
2 have done that as your Council comments. We're not in
3 call for proposals. That's State waters there. Are
4 they submitting an agenda change request to the Board
5 of Fish?

6
7 MS. PELKOLA: I don't know.

8
9 MR. ESTENSEN: Mr. Chair. This is Jeff
10 Estensen with Fish and Game. I could answer some
11 questions regarding that if you'd like.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,
14 Jeff.

15
16 MR. ESTENSEN: Yes, so this is in
17 regards to a proposal that the Ruby Tribal Council
18 submitted to the Board of Fish under the joint Board
19 proposal -- or the Joint Board Subsistence Proposal
20 Policy and this is going to be taken up at the Board of
21 Fish work session, which will be occurring in Anchorage
22 next week.

23
24 And what the proposal is seeking to do
25 is to allow the opportunity to harvest Yukon River coho
26 salmon using drift gillnet gear in Subdistricts 4B and
27 4C during the daylight hours between August 15th and
28 the 31st. And this -- it's not really an ACR, it was a
29 proposal that was submitted in a timely fashion but
30 it's under the subsistence proposal policy and the
31 Board of Fish will be taking it up at the work session
32 next week in Anchorage.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for
35 bringing that up Jenny, and thanks for the
36 clarification on when the Board is actually going to
37 act on that. I hope they do enact that.

38
39 Is the Board seeking comment at this
40 time on that, Jeff?

41
42 MR. ESTENSEN: Well, Mr. Chair, Jeff
43 Estensen again. At this point in time when they meet
44 next week it is going to be open to the public and can
45 be streamed. But it was made -- I was just informed
46 that there's not going to be any public testimony
47 during that work session.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You have a
50

1 comment Fred. Fred's here, Fred Bue. Go ahead.

2

3 MR. BUE: Fred Bue, Fish and Wildlife
4 Service. If it helps the Council I have a packet of
5 those ACRs, there's six of them. I was going to bring
6 it up in our season summary portion but I could hand
7 them out to you now.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll do that at
10 your season summary.

11

12 MR. BUE: Okay.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any
15 other non-agenda items.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anybody in the room
20 or on the phone.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So hearing none,
25 we're going to return to our agenda.

26

27 We have some more Federal subsistence
28 proposals.

29

30 Go ahead, Lisa.

31

32 MS. MAAS: All right, thank you, Mr.
33 Chair. Lisa Maas for the record.

34

35 We're on Wildlife Proposal 22.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we have tabs
38 that have appeared in our book overnight.

39

40 MR. VENT: Yeah.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The tab fairy has
43 arrived.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MS. MAAS: All right, so hopefully
48 you've all found 22 now with your tabs.

49

50

1 So, again, for the record my name is
2 Lisa Maas and I'll be presenting a summary of the
3 analysis for Wildlife Proposal 18-22.
4

5 This proposal is being presented to the
6 Western Interior Council because residents of Lime
7 Village and Stony River have a customary and
8 traditional use determination for caribou in the
9 affected area, the Nushagak Peninsula.
10

11 Wildlife Proposal 18-22 was submitted
12 by the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council and
13 requests that the Federal lands closure for caribou on
14 the Nushagak Peninsula be rescinded. Currently only
15 seven communities are authorized to harvest caribou in
16 this area. This proposal would open up the area to all
17 users. The proponent recognizes that the Nushagak
18 Peninsula Caribou Herd has exceeded population
19 objectives for several years and should be reduced to
20 sustainable levels. The proponent also notes that
21 managing harvest quotas through permitting protects
22 against overharvest.
23

24 In 2015 and 2016 several special action
25 requests aimed at increasing harvest of the Nushagak
26 herd temporarily lifted the Federal lands closure. The
27 Nushagak herd has exceeded population objectives since
28 2012 causing concern about the herds long-term
29 viability. Harvest is affected by travel conditions
30 often resulting in lower harvest numbers than expected.
31 Despite the opening of State seasons and the temporary
32 lifting of the Federal lands closure in 2015 and 2016
33 nearly all harvest is reported by residents of the
34 seven communities that have always been eligible to
35 harvest Nushagak caribou.
36

37 If this proposal was adopted, all users
38 would be able to hunt Nushagak caribou on Federal
39 public lands, which may increase harvest and help to
40 reduce the herd size to within management objectives.
41 But it is not expected to negatively affect subsistence
42 uses.
43

44 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
45 support WP18-22.
46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any
50

1 questions on the proposal. It's basically very
2 specific to one particular herd outside of our region
3 but we do have members that have C&T.

4
5 Any questions on the proposal.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any Federal comments
10 from Togiak Refuge, or anybody, land managing agencies
11 near there.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any Advisory
16 Committee comments. State Advisory Committees.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: ADF&G comments.

21
22 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
23 Lem Butler on the phone.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Lem.

26
27 MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
28 Department supports this proposal. We've worked
29 closely with Togiak Refuge over the years to monitor
30 and manage the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd, which
31 is an introduced herd. It was introduced in the '80s
32 to provide additional opportunity in that area. As has
33 been noted, the population objective is to maintain a
34 population of 400 to 900 caribou. At times we've
35 exceeded that and we've been unable to actually capture
36 the harvest necessary to bring the population back
37 within objectives solely from the Federal regulations.

38
39 By lifting this closure we'd be allowed
40 other users, other communities even in Bristol Bay to
41 access the herd in addition to the ones that have been
42 identified under Federal regulations. So it expands
43 the opportunity to rural Alaskans in the area, as well
44 as other Alaskans. We specifically did not offer the
45 opportunity this year to outside hunters to hunt on
46 Federal lands. Through our permitting system we can
47 regulate whether or not Federal lands are available to
48 State permitholders in this area and we chose not to do
49 it this year. The population count came in lower than
50

1 expected. We're currently managing it in a context
2 where if the population exceeds the threshold of 900,
3 which, again, is the upper end, we'll offer State
4 hunting opportunity, if it's below that threshold,
5 we'll reduce our hunt area so that it's not available
6 for people under State regulations. So -- and, again,
7 we're working closely with the Togiak Refuge and with
8 Bristol Bay Native Association and other stakeholders
9 in the area to find that right -- strike that right
10 balance in terms of offering opportunity and
11 maintaining the population.

12
13 Our big concern is that when the
14 population -- the population, again, was introduced in
15 the 1980s. At one point it hit 1,200 and it crashed.
16 So that seems to be about roughly where we need
17 something to reduce the population if we want to
18 provide that long-term sustained opportunity in the
19 region. So, again, I -- while the harvest hasn't been
20 significant under the State regulations, this seems to
21 be an additional tool to try to provide long-term
22 opportunity in the area by trying to regulate the
23 population to the extent possible.

24
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You said there was a
28 reduction in the recent survey, what did you think you
29 found?

30
31 MR. BUTLER: So what we're comparing it
32 to is the minimum population count. The minimum
33 population count was approximately 750 caribou. So,
34 again, we did not offer the State hunt there on Federal
35 lands this recent year because we were below that 900
36 threshold that we've discussed with the Nushagak
37 Caribou Herd Planning Group, which, again, has local
38 constituency and et cetera. The revay count, which is
39 a total population estimate actually came out above the
40 900 so we think there are more than 900 caribou but
41 we're still using the minimum counts because that's
42 where the threshold and guidelines were -- that's how
43 they were established, so we felt that was a more
44 accurate representation of what was intended by the
45 working group.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That answers
48 my question, thank you.

49
50

1 Any other comments or questions from
2 the Council on the State's presentation.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, thanks,
7 Lem.

8
9 And there were no Advisory Committee
10 comments.

11
12 Regional Council recommendation. The
13 Chair will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 18-22.

14
15 MR. VENT: I make a motion to adopt 18-
16 22.

17
18 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
21 Discussion on the proposal -- Bristol Bay Regional
22 Advisory Council proposal.

23
24 MR. SIMON: Question.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called on
27 the Proposal WP18-22, those in favor of the proposal as
28 written signify by saying aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

33
34 (No opposing votes)

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal's adopted.
37 Go ahead, Lisa.

38
39 MS. MAAS: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 The next proposal is 18-28.

41
42 So, again, for the record my name is
43 Lisa Maas.

44
45 The next proposal is 18-28 and this
46 proposal is being presented to the Western Interior
47 Council because residents of Lower and Upper Kalskag
48 have a customary and traditional use determination for
49 moose in the affected area, the Goodnews River Drainage
50

1 in Unit 18, however, no Kalskag residents have ever
2 reported harvesting moose from this area. Therefore,
3 I'll pause to let the Council decide whether to
4 continue with the presentation or to defer action on
5 this proposal to the home region.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would prefer to
8 defer this proposal to the home region since I would
9 doubt that we would ever have any harvest that far
10 down.

11
12 The Chair will entertain a motion to
13 defer Proposal WP18-28.

14
15 MR. SIMON: So moved.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock.

18
19 MR. HONEA: Second.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Don.

22
23 Discussion on the proposal.

24
25 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
28 Those in favor of deferral of Proposal WP18-28 signify
29 by saying aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Lisa.

38
39 MS. MAAS: Okay. Thanks, Mr. Chair.
40 Next up is 18-43.

41
42 Okay. Again, I'll be presenting the
43 analysis for Wildlife Proposal 18-43 and this proposal
44 is being presented to the Western Interior Council
45 because residents of Unit 21 have a customary and
46 traditional use determination for brown bear in Unit
47 23.

48
49 Wildlife Proposal 18-43 was submitted
50

1 by the Northwest Arctic Council and requests that the
2 Unit 23 brown bear harvest limit be increased from one
3 to three bears per year and that the season be extended
4 to year-round. The proponent notes an overabundance of
5 brown bears in Unit 23 and states that the proposed
6 regulation change would reduce human bear conflicts and
7 disturbance of migrating caribou.

8
9 In 2017 the Board of Game adopted
10 Proposal 40 to increase the resident brown bear
11 harvest limit in Unit 23 to two bears per year.

12
13 Another Federal wildlife proposal,
14 WP18-44 could affect this proposal and will be
15 presented next. And that proposal requests that up to
16 two brown bear hides and skulls could be sold per year.

17
18
19 There are many uncertainties about the
20 Unit 23 brown bear population, however, according to
21 aerial survey data and local observations, the brown
22 bear population in most of Unit 23 appears healthy and
23 may be increasing. Brown bear populations are often
24 managed conservatively. Brown bears are a highly
25 respected and utilized subsistence resource in
26 Northwest Alaska. Bears are predominately harvested
27 during the spring and fall. They are rarely hunted in
28 the summer because they are lean. Their hides are of
29 lesser quality and they are considered more dangerous.
30 Local hunters rarely take bears in defense of life and
31 property as the process is onerous and hunters fear
32 they have broken the law. Rather, nuisance bears are
33 more often killed and not reported but their meat is
34 utilized.

35
36 Since 1990 reported brown bear harvest
37 in Unit 23 has averaged 50 bear per year, although some
38 harvest is not reported.

39
40 While the percent of males in the
41 reported harvest has exceeded State management
42 objectives, the impact of hunting on the Unit 23 brown
43 bear population is unknown due to unreported harvest
44 and lack of population data. Overharvesting may
45 already be occurring within Gates of the Arctic
46 National Park and Preserve. One alternative considered
47 was to increase the harvest limit to two bears per year
48 instead of three due to uncertainties about brown bear
49 populations and harvest. A two bear harvest limit
50

1 would also reduce user confusion and regulatory
2 complexity by aligning with the recent changes to State
3 regulations.

4
5 Adoption of this proposal would
6 increase opportunity for Federally-qualified
7 subsistence users and would provide for a Federal
8 subsistence priority as Federal regulations are
9 currently more restrictive than State regulations.
10 However, concurrence would be needed from the State to
11 allow Federally-qualified subsistence users to use a
12 State registration permit with season dates and harvest
13 limits that differ from existing State regulations as
14 all edible meat must be salvaged and two bears can
15 already be harvested under State regulations. An
16 increase in the Federal harvest limit is not expected
17 to result in a substantial increase in harvest.
18 Similarly, as bears are traditionally in the spring and
19 fall, few bears are expected to be harvested during the
20 extended season in June and July. A year-round season
21 may increase harvest reporting and would also allow for
22 the take and utilization of nuisance bears during the
23 summer that would not be legal under defense of life
24 and property.

25
26 However, there may be conservation
27 concerns for this proposal. While the best available
28 information suggests that the Unit 23 brown bear
29 population is stable or increasing there are still many
30 uncertainties about the population and harvest.
31 Additionally, brown bears are slow to recover from
32 overharvest. A three bear harvest limit would be the
33 highest in the state and may be unsustainable.

34
35 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
36 support WP18-43 with modification to increase the
37 harvest limit to two bears per year.

38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions on the
42 proposal.

43
44 Darrel.

45
46 MR. VENT: Yeah, as we talked about
47 earlier in the meeting, yesterday, that we're starting
48 to see increase in bear activity in our area so it's
49 kind of concerning because, you know, people are kind
50

1 of worried about the same thing, they might get
2 arrested for taking care of a nuisance bear. So I see
3 that this proposal might, you know, help in our area
4 also too.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That would be
7 a future proposal.

8
9 Any comments on the proposal.

10
11 Pollock.

12
13 MR. SIMON: Yeah, Pollock Simon, Sr.,
14 Allakaket. I would support this kind of proposal
15 because there's a lot of brown bears and grizzlies
16 increasing in our area also. They can also kill and
17 eat the moose and bears, black bears that we subsist on
18 so grizzlies are increasing in our area. So I would
19 support this kind of proposal.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 MR. ALEXIE: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Fred.

26
27 MR. ALEXIE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
28 support this resolution mainly because of the caribou
29 migration, where it go, where it come from. The
30 people, the hunters in Kaltag they also go out and they
31 get couple brown bears. You'll notice Kaltag is a long
32 way off from that area but that brown bear population,
33 the black bear is coming back. Because the old people
34 are not around no more that used to eat that meat,
35 primarily during the summer. And, you know, like
36 myself, the only time I'll ever eat one is late, late
37 in the fall, and that's the only time I go after them.

38
39 Okay, that's all the comments I had.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Dennis.

42
43 MR. THOMAS: Well, the bear population
44 in our area is just like over, at times it seems like
45 there's quite a few of them around and other times you
46 wonder. The only thing I would question about this is
47 the actual count, are they really looking into the
48 amount of bears that are there. Because remember this
49 is a resource to the State of Alaska, especially the

50

1 brown bear. Now this is one of the few things that I
2 see that you bring in outside people to hunt them, that
3 brings a lot of money into the state and how many
4 people eat a brown bear. Christ, I don't know, I
5 wouldn't eat one but that's me. I don't know, if it --
6 if this was normal and usual use of it, but I would
7 question the amount of bears to be taken out of an
8 area, especially a brown bear population. Now, the
9 black bear, they're everywhere, you know, people do eat
10 them. But the brown bear, I don't think there's that
11 many people that eat these things, they're not safe to
12 eat as far as I'm concerned. I know people that have
13 gotten trichinosis from them.

14
15 Anyway, that's my comment.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got just as much
18 chance of getting trichinosis out of a pork steak in
19 your local grocery store so you should cook pork well
20 done. People eat bear meat. In the Brooks Range,
21 bears dig roots a lot and you've never had such good
22 bear meat in all your life, they're better than a black
23 bear. If you've ever had a black bear they're --
24 grizzlies that are digging roots are excellent.

25
26 MR. THOMAS: You know, you take a bear
27 -- it's like a man (no microphone).....

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we're not
30 going to get into the perceptions and the squeamishness
31 part of it, there's people that eat bear meat.

32
33 This is a proposal -- the people of
34 Northwest Alaska feel that the bear population can
35 support this. OSM feels that the bear population can
36 support that. And in Unit 24 the harvest of brown
37 bears is typically less than half, or half of what can
38 be sustained and so there's lots of bears around and
39 this just adds additional harvest opportunity.

40
41 But we're not deliberating the proposal
42 right now. I want to get the State perspective. Are
43 you going to speak to this one, Lem.

44
45 MR. BUTLER: I believe Phil Perry's on
46 the line and if he's not I'll speak to it.

47
48 MR. PERRY: Good morning.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning.

2
3 MR. PERRY: So I can give you a little
4 bit more detail. You know, one of the things this
5 proposal is talking about is just the State subsistence
6 permit. So the -- and that, obviously the subsistence
7 permit requires the salvage of meat for human
8 consumption. Right now the other State regulations in
9 Unit 23, a State resident can hunt bears there, there's
10 a bag limit of two, they don't need a medlocking tag,
11 just under a general hunt. The seasons are the same as
12 for the subsistence permit. The subsistence permit as
13 it stands right now, under State regulations is August
14 1 through the end of May, a person can harvest two
15 bears. And you know subsistence permits are something
16 that have been around for 20-some years now in Western
17 Alaska, I think down from -- I don't know if the
18 Peninsula has some, at least Bristol Bay and up the
19 coast north. It's something that's used, obviously in
20 Western Alaska people do harvest and eat brown bears
21 but it's not used very much. If I look back at Unit
22 23, the highest years they've ever had for
23 participation in the subsistence hunt, they've had as
24 many as 40 permits but the harvest has always been
25 below 10 so -- and in recent years it's been lower than
26 that.

27
28 So I don't think the risk of harvesting
29 a lot of bears, you know, with a bag limit of two is
30 very high.

31
32 So I just wanted to kind of put that
33 out there and, you know, it's probably, for hunters, a
34 good tactic for the local hunters to have Federal and
35 State regulations align where they can so we'd
36 certainly be in favor of having that happen if it's
37 possible.

38
39 Thanks.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're in favor
42 of the OSM modification to two bears?

43
44 MR. PERRY: Yeah, that would bring it
45 into alignment with State regulations, so, yeah.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right,
48 thank you. Any Advisory Committee comments received.

49
50

1 MR. STEVENSON: No, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Public
4 written comments. Public testimony. Anybody on the
5 phone want to speak to this proposal.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Regional Advisory
10 Council recommendation. The Chair will entertain a
11 motion to adopt Proposal WP18-43.

12

13 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead, Zach.

16

17 MR. STEVENSON: Lisa had a comment.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

20

21 MS. MAAS: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just
22 wanted to clarify that the OSM conclusion would align
23 the harvest limit with State regulations, but not the
24 season, because the season would be year-round, so it
25 would have an additional two months of harvest
26 opportunity in the summer.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks for
29 that clarification.

30

31 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

32

33 MR. BUTLER: And, Mr. Chair, this is
34 Lem on the phone.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Lem.

37

38 MR. BUTLER: And I just also wanted to
39 point out that the proposal talks about our State
40 subsistence registration permit, so, again, what Phil
41 was talking about our State subsistence registration
42 permit. So we do have a two bear bag limit there, it
43 requires things like you have to remove the paws and
44 the face from the bear if you want to take it out of
45 the unit, otherwise it can remain in tact. Again, we
46 also have a two bear bag limit for our general season.
47 So, again, this -- while you would be bringing into
48 alignment with our subsistence season, just keep in
49 mind if it's under the State subsistence registration

50

1 permit it has that requirement, so you salvage it for
2 human consumption and that you remove the paws and the
3 face if it's going to leave the unit.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

8
9 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: Do we need to modify the
14 proposal, actually it's for three bears, so how do we
15 handle that, do we ask that we change it.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, you could go
18 with the OSM preliminary conclusion to support with
19 modification.

20
21 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That drops that to
24 two bears.

25
26 MR. COLLINS: Okay. So we don't need
27 to do something about the regulatory.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, if that's the
30 Council's preference.

31
32 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So would you make
35 that motion.

36
37 MR. COLLINS: Yes, I'll make that
38 motion.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Ray's made a
41 motion to adopt the OSM preliminary conclusion for two
42 bears.

43
44 MR. SIMON: Second.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.
47 Further discussion on this proposal.

48
49 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

2
3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I just have a
4 comment. Because those bears can be very efficient in
5 the harvesting of calf moose. They found when they
6 were doing the study and seeing what was killing the
7 calves in our area they had tagged tags, for a couple
8 years
9 they studied it and there was one grizzly in the area
10 there that would account for several calves every
11 spring that they found there. So they're very
12 efficient if they start targeting moose calves, they
13 can make a real impact on calf survival.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, there are
16 certain bears, you know, they're straight predators.
17 I've seen bears -- I don't eat those kind, if you're
18 going to eat a bear you don't -- typically you don't
19 want to get that kind because those aren't real good to
20 eat. But there's predatory grizzlies, that's all they
21 do is hunt. They don't rarely -- and you know them
22 because they got really long smooth claws because they
23 never dig roots, so they just walk around and they wear
24 the ends of their claws -- they're usually up seeking,
25 walking across wind, trying to catch the scent of a
26 prey or they're laying on the kill, one of the two. So
27 those are actually not the best to eat.

28
29 So, Dennis, don't shoot any of those,
30 if you want to eat one and they do.....

31
32 MR. THOMAS: I'll bet.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:look like a
35 skinned out person. I mean a lot of people think, you
36 know, when they see a skinned bear it looks like a
37 person, but we're not going there.

38
39 Any further discussion on the motion on
40 the floor.

41
42 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
45 Those in favor of adopting WP18-43 with OSM preliminary
46 conclusion, modification to two bears, those in favor
47 of the modification signify by saying aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

2
3 (No opposing votes)

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Lisa.

6
7 MS. MAAS: And next up is 44, so Josh
8 will be presenting that one.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead Josh.

11
12 MR. REAM: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
13 members of the Council. Again, my name is Joshua Ream.
14 I'm an anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
15 Management.

16
17 Proposal WP18-44 was submitted by the
18 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
19 and requests that regulations allowing the sale of up
20 to raw untanned brown bear hides with claws attached
21 and/or skulls per regulatory year be allowed from brown
22 bears legally harvested by Federally-qualified
23 subsistence users on Federal public lands in Unit 23.

24
25 Since much of the regulatory history,
26 harvest history and biology was presented in the last
27 proposal I will not repeat it here unless asked to do
28 so. If you have any questions about these at the end
29 of the presentation, please be sure to let myself or
30 Lisa know.

31
32 The Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory
33 Council voted to submit this proposal to align State
34 and Federal regulations in Unit 23 by adding a
35 provision in Federal regulations allowing the sale of
36 up to two skulls and raw untanned hides of brown bears
37 legally harvested on Federal public lands by Federally-
38 qualified subsistence users per regulatory year. The
39 Council also voted to submit the companion proposal
40 that you heard last to increase the Federal harvest
41 limit for brown bears from one bear to three bears per
42 regulatory year and to extend the season to year-round.
43 The proponent clarified that they only seek to allow
44 the sale of two brown bear skulls and raw untanned
45 hides with claws attached per regulatory year.

46
47 Because of the State increase in the
48 brown bear harvest limit to two bears per regulatory
49 year in Unit 23 the sale of brown bear skulls and hides
50

1 with claws attached is legal under general State
2 regulations in Unit 23 as of July 1st, 2017. However,
3 brown bears harvested under a State subsistence
4 registration permit in Unit 23 as currently required
5 under Federal regulations that are either removed from
6 the subsistence area or presented for commercial
7 tanning must be sealed by a designated sealing officer
8 and the skin of the head and front claws must be
9 removed and kept by the Alaska Department of Fish and
10 Game. Federal regulations currently allow the harvest
11 of one brown bear annually in Unit 23 by State
12 registration permit, therefore requiring that the front
13 claws be removed and kept by the Department.

14
15 In 2008 the Board adopted Proposal
16 WP08-52 to allow the sale of handicrafts made from the
17 fur of a brown bear taken in Unit 23 so that
18 subsistence users could more fully utilize the brown
19 bear resource. In 2012 the Board adopted Proposal
20 WP12-01 to require sealing of brown bear hides or claws
21 prior to selling handicrafts that incorporate these.
22 This was done in order to insure that marketed
23 handicrafts were made from legally harvested brown
24 bears. The proposal was submitted by the Brown Bear
25 Claw Handicraft Working Group. In 2016 the Board of
26 Game adopted Proposal 57 to allow the sale of brown
27 bear hides and/or skulls by Alaska residents in units
28 where the harvest limit is two or more bears annually.
29 The proposal was submitted by the Nushagak Advisory
30 Committee with the stated intent of encouraging brown
31 bear harvest to reduce predation on moose and caribou,
32 to reduce bear hazards around communities. In 2017 the
33 Board of Game adopted Proposal 40 to increase the
34 resident brown bear harvest limit in Unit 23 to two
35 bears per regulatory year. The Board of Game supported
36 the proposal because it provided more harvest
37 opportunity, because there were no conservation
38 concerns and because it was supported by five local
39 Fish and Game Advisory Committees. In November of this
40 year the Board of Game will hear Proposal 49. This
41 proposal requests that a permit be required before
42 brown bear skulls and hides with claws attached can be
43 sold. This proposal was submitted by the Alaska
44 Department of Fish and Game because there is currently
45 no method to track the sale of bears harvested in areas
46 where the harvest limit is two brown bears per year.

47
48 The proponent states that this proposal
49 will allow Alaska Department of Fish and Game to track
50

1 and quantify the interest in selling brown bear skulls
2 and hides with the claws attached. The proponent also
3 states that there are concerns about the potential to
4 commercialize the harvest of brown bears and that there
5 is interest in knowing the magnitude of this use.

6
7 Raw untanned hides with the claws
8 attached and skulls do not align with the definition of
9 a handicraft but these items may be sold more
10 appropriately under customary trade. If defined as
11 customary trade, the sale of raw untanned hides and
12 skulls of brown bears under Federal regulations would
13 still require adherence to the meat salvage
14 stipulations. The issue of claw retention was examined
15 extensively by the Brown Bear Claw Handicraft Working
16 Group that was formed by the Board in 2009 to discuss a
17 range of issues relating to brown bear claws, including
18 their use in handicrafts, the feasibility of tracking
19 these and potential changes to regulations. Of
20 particular concern to this group was preventing the
21 illegal harvest and sale of brown bear parts that can
22 garner significant monetary value in worldwide markets
23 and which may incentivise illegal harvest of brown bear
24 populations elsewhere in North America where
25 conservation concerns are prevalent.

26
27 Brown bears have long been a highly
28 respected and utilized subsistence resource in
29 Northwest Alaska and the species has a prominent and
30 physical and symbolic role in the lives of local
31 people. These animals provide a source of meat, raw
32 materials, and medicine within the Inupiaq culture of
33 the region. Brown bears have also been prized as
34 trophy sport hunting animals in the region, largely by
35 non-Native residents of the regional hubs of Nome and
36 Kotzebue. The hunting of brown bears in the Inupiaq
37 culture traditionally required strict adherence to
38 prescribed practices designed to show respect to the
39 animal and a hunter success was considered dependent on
40 adherence to these protocols. The use of brown bears
41 for food in the region is variable among communities
42 depending on geographic location. Among the edible
43 parts of a brown bear, the fat is the most prized
44 product. Local hunters time their hunting to
45 correspond with when bears have the most fat and the
46 meat is of highest quality. Customary trade is a
47 longstanding practice among Alaska Native cultures and
48 closely resembles bartering practices with introduction
49 of monetary exchange.

1 In 2010, data on customary trade for
2 one Inupiaq community in the Northwest Arctic Borough,
3 Selawik, was documented by the Alaska Department of
4 Fish and Game. During the study year, 2010 to 2011,
5 approximately 32 percent of households engaged in
6 customary trade. Brown bear was not involved in any of
7 these trades that were documented.

8
9 The preliminary OSM conclusion on this
10 proposal is to oppose the Proposal 18-44. Adoption of
11 this proposal is unlikely to significantly increase
12 subsistence opportunities for area residents. Few
13 residents of Unit 23 hunt brown bears under Federal or
14 State subsistence regulations, due to the meat salvage
15 requirements and sealing requirements. These
16 requirements would remain in place if this proposal was
17 adopted. There are also law enforcement and
18 conservation concerns regarding the sale of brown bear
19 products. Global markets drive very high prices for
20 brown bear parts and are known to encourage poaching.
21 Increasing market availability and/or prices of brown
22 bear products may intensify illegal harvest from these
23 populations. Tracking the illegal harvest and sale of
24 brown bear products is also difficult. Furthermore,
25 customary trade of animal products may not rise to the
26 level of a significant commercial enterprise, but
27 defining and enforcing the parameters of this can be
28 very challenging. Given the unalternated nature of the
29 products requested in this proposal these products also
30 do not meet the requirement of a handicraft, which may
31 already be sold under Federal subsistence regulations.
32 While there is evidence of a general pattern of
33 customary trade of wildlife in Unit 23, there is no
34 documented pattern as it relates specifically to brown
35 bears, especially the hides and skulls of this species.
36 The most recently documented harvest for brown bears
37 suggests that harvest -- that bears have also been
38 prized as trophy sport animals and that harvest by
39 local residents for food is low. Additionally, the
40 proponent lists several justifications for the request
41 but none of these indicate that adoption of this
42 proposal would facilitate patterns of customary trade.
43 Lastly, population data for brown bears in Unit 23 is
44 sparse and highly variable. In Gates of the Arctic
45 National Park and Preserve brown bear populations are
46 considered low and overharvest may already be
47 occurring. Brown bear populations are slow to recover
48 from overharvest and commercial incentivization may
49 increase the risk of overharvest from potentially
50

1 vulnerable populations.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
4 Council. I'll answer any questions that you have at
5 this time.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question is,
8 would OSM be more amicable to the proposal if the State
9 adopted -- there's a proposal to -- for a permitting
10 system to sell the skins under permitting under
11 customary trade, if there's a permitting documentation
12 process, would the OSM be more inclined to support the
13 proposal or proposed sale for customary trade, raw
14 skins?

15

16 MR. REAM: I think that the
17 conversations at OSM may be different if there was a
18 better way of tracking these products but I also think
19 that we're looking for additional information from the
20 Northwest Arctic Council regarding their use of brown
21 bears and customary trade because this has not yet been
22 fully documented.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. This is kind
25 of a sticky proposal because I don't think the
26 proponent understands that under this regulatory
27 process that they would have to have the trophies
28 destroyed under subsistence harvest, and so that's -- I
29 think that the Council -- the Northwest Arctic Council
30 would have to be informed of all of those various
31 things and for this Council I would prefer to defer
32 this to region. Let them wade through all of that. I
33 do think that customary trade could be a process, you
34 know, if there's a harvestable surplus of brown bears,
35 that customary trade with a permitting process could be
36 a viable aspect. But I think that Northwest Arctic
37 should wade through all of that process.

38

39 Lisa, you have a comment.

40

41 MS. MAAS: Yeah, I just -- I mean from
42 a practical on the ground standpoint, unless someone
43 wants to harvest a brown bear during the summer in
44 Kobuk Valley National Park, there's not really any
45 effect in this being legal under Federal regulations
46 since they can already do it under State regulations.
47 So I just wanted to -- from the practicality
48 standpoint, they can pretty much do what they're asking
49 to do under State regulations.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I agree with you.
2 You know you look at the land status and most of the
3 communities have a significant corp lands or State
4 lands around the communities, they actually can hunt
5 under State regulations and do that.
6

7 The technicals of the Northwest Arctic
8 Regional Advisory Councils would have to work through
9 all of those technicals and I don't think it's worth
10 our time to deal with all that because it needs
11 significant modification and so that's not our
12 proposal.
13

14 The Chair will entertain a motion to
15 defer.
16

17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Call the State.
18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't even want
20 to go there.
21

22 Go ahead, Zach.
23

24 MR. STEVENSON: Respectfully, Mr.
25 Chair, there were written comments received and I
26 understand it's protocol to provide a summary of
27 written public comments as well as public testimony.
28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay, I'm sorry.
30 I would like to hear the written comments and public
31 testimony.
32

33 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Through the Chair. There were two public written
35 comments received by the Federal Subsistence Board --
36 the written public comments were provided by Sterling
37 Miller, retired Alaska Department of Fish and Game
38 research biologist and Clait E. Braun, past president
39 of the Wildlife Society and former editor of the
40 Journal of Wildlife Management. Through the Chair,
41 I'll provide a brief summary of those comments.
42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A brief summary.
44 This Council's inclined to defer, though, so it makes
45 no bearing on our decision to defer.
46

47 MR. STEVENSON: Understood.
48

49 The written comments demonstrated that
50

1 there was insufficient data to justify the sale of
2 hides, skulls and claws, that the proposal would, in
3 fact, exacerbate, rather than reduce human/bear
4 conflicts and interactions and that there was
5 insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the proposal
6 would reduce destruction of public property as asserted
7 by the proponent and that the population would
8 undermine the sustainable management of the bear
9 resource.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I think
14 there are a lot of aspects that need to be waded
15 through by the Northwest Arctic Council, but I don't
16 feel that this is going to affect our subsistence users
17 in the Western Interior Region that have customary and
18 traditional use determinations over there. And I don't
19 think it's worth our time, we have a lot of agenda so
20 I'm wanting to move forward.

21

22 Go ahead, Carl.

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
25 understand your indication that you kind of know where
26 you want to go on this proposal, however, at least once
27 yesterday the Chair noted that it was important to hear
28 what the State might have to say and what other
29 agencies might have to say so we do have a protocol in
30 place and I expect that the comments will be brief.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

33

34 MR. JOHNSON: So I understand the
35 desire to preserve time but I think we should still
36 follow the protocol.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Okay. All
39 right, I'll stand admonished.

40

41 State comments, Lem or Phil.

42

43 MR. PERRY: Yes, this is Phillip. I
44 can give just a brief comment.

45

46 So you brought up a lot of good points.
47 There certainly are some things with sales of brown
48 bear with subsistence permits, that there are some
49 issues that we need to work through, some are

50

1 regulatory, some are administrative. I think you've
2 pointed out, you know, destruction of trophy value, you
3 know, kind of makes a sale of a brown bear kind of a
4 strange thing. But it is -- you know, this is one of
5 many areas with a general season also that has the two
6 bear per year limit, so residents could harvest bears
7 and sell those hides anyways, just at this point the
8 subsistence permit is -- yeah, challenging in how that
9 would happen. It hasn't come up as far as I know in
10 any of the areas that we have subsistence permits and
11 two bear bag limits but it's something we're going to
12 have to work through.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.
15 Any questions of the State.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think we're clear
20 on the process. Any comments from the public. Are
21 there people on the phone that may want to comment on
22 this proposal.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none. We
27 had a motion to defer from Darrel, did we have a
28 second.

29
30 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
33 Further discussion on the proposal.

34
35 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
38 Those in favor of deferral of Proposal WP18-44 signify
39 by saying aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

44
45 (No opposing votes)

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we should go for
48 a short break here, and about 10:45 return on the
49 record.

50

1 (Off record)

2
3 (On record)

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we -- I got a
6 request during the break from Carl, when we voted on
7 Proposal 18-22 to allow -- rescind these communities,
8 they needed justification. I could rattle off a quick
9 justification and see if the Council feels.....

10
11 MR. VENT: Yes.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The justification is
14 that the caribou population of the Nushagak Peninsula
15 is healthy and can support additional harvest from
16 other communities and it would be primarily subsistence
17 communities that would be eligible, and so that would
18 -- or customary and traditional use determination for
19 those subunits would actually allow some of our
20 customary and traditional users to be able to access
21 those caribou.

22
23 So that would be one of my reasons.

24
25 And so the herd -- even with expanded
26 harvest limits seems to be able to sustain significant
27 harvest because there's very low predation there. And
28 so that would be the main reasons in support of the
29 proposal.

30
31 MR. THOMAS: Jack.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Dennis.

34
35 MR. THOMAS: This area down there, like
36 Aniak and get down towards Nushagak or whatever the
37 hell you call it, I've seen at times that there's some
38 really, really heavy hunting from Anchorage area and
39 stuff, people flying out with airplanes and bagging
40 these caribou all over the place. I've seen them out
41 of Aniak. I knew this guy down there that had planes
42 that he'd fly, like every bit of fall, he was just
43 busy, busy, busy running over getting the people
44 getting the caribou and then consequently I haven't
45 seen a caribou in our area for the last 10 years or
46 better. So I don't know whether that's the cause of it
47 or not but I do know that there's some awful heavy
48 hunting from Anchorage and what not, by airplane,
49 coming out of Dillingham and stuff, too, there's a lot
50

1 of air taxi people down there. And I don't know what
2 kind of a count there is on that. Okay. Are we really
3 getting the true numbers of what's taken from that
4 herd. And so I'm in the dark, I just don't know what
5 to do, all I know is this is what I have noticed and
6 what I have seen in the years I've had back there.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be the
9 Mulchatna Caribou Herd but this is the Nushagak
10 Peninsula Herd, it's a relatively small herd down by
11 Dillingham, way down there. The Mulchatna Herd is to
12 the north of that, extending from Unit 18 across. This
13 herd, this Nushagak Peninsula Herd has had primarily
14 subsistence harvest is what's primarily harvested
15 there. There's not all those air taxis going to this
16 place.

17
18 MR. THOMAS: All right.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But I do agree with
21 your concerns about in the future if more air taxis and
22 more non-resident opportunity was provided for
23 Mulchatna we could go right back to where we have high
24 harvest of bulls and some problems.

25
26 But we're -- that would be the
27 justification for that.

28
29 We're going to move on with this
30 agenda.

31
32 Lisa.

33
34 MS. MAAS: All right, thank you, Mr.
35 Chair. Our last wildlife proposal is WP18-51.

36
37 MR. THOMAS: 18-51, holy cripe, way
38 back.

39
40 MS. MAAS: It should be the last
41 proposal in your binder.

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 MS. MAAS: Okay, I think most of you
46 have found 18-51. So, again, for the record my name is
47 Lisa Maas and I'll be presenting a summary of the
48 analysis for Wildlife Proposal 18-51.

49
50

1 Wildlife Proposal 18-51 was submitted
2 by the Eastern Interior Council and requests that
3 Federal statewide bear baiting restrictions be aligned
4 with State regulations specifically the use of
5 biodegradable materials. The proponent states that
6 current Federal bear baiting restrictions are more
7 restrictive than the State's and do not provide for a
8 Federal subsistence priority. Aligning State and
9 Federal bear baiting restrictions would reduce
10 regulatory complexity and user confusion and allow
11 baiting with items, such as dog food, baked goods, et
12 cetera that have traditionally been used as bear bait
13 by Federally-qualified subsistence users and are
14 currently allowed under State regulations.

15
16 Federal regulations for bear baiting
17 were adopted from State regulations in 1990 and have
18 not been modified since.

19
20 In 2015 the National Park Service
21 published the Final Rule prohibiting the take of brown
22 and black bears over bait on National Preserves under
23 State regulations.

24
25 In 2017 the National Park Service
26 published Final limiting the types of bait that may be
27 used for taking bears under Federal regulations to
28 native fish or wildlife remains with some exceptions in
29 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

30
31 Black and brown bears have
32 traditionally and contemporarily been harvested and
33 utilized across much of Alaska using various methods.
34 However the occurrence of bear baiting is limited
35 within published literature and it is unknown whether
36 this method was rarely practiced or just seldom
37 documented. In some cases the bait ingredients are
38 unknown.

39
40 One alternative considered was to
41 define the term scent lure as no definition currently
42 exists under Federal or State regulations. If not
43 defined, any material or chemical could be used at
44 registered bait stations on Federal public lands
45 including non-biodegradable ones.

46
47 A proposed definition is:

48
49 Scent lure means any biodegradable
50

1 material to which biodegradable scent
2 is applied or infused.
3

4 If this proposal is adopted, Federally-
5 qualified subsistence users could use any biodegradable
6 material as well as scent lures at registered bear
7 baiting stations on lands administered by the US Fish
8 and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and
9 the US Forest Service. As bear bait is limited to
10 native fish and wildlife remains on National Park
11 Service lands, adoption of this proposal would not
12 affect Park Service lands.
13

14 Adoption of this proposal would reduce
15 regulatory complexity and user confusion by aligning
16 State and Federal regulations. As the requested
17 changes are already permitted under State regulations,
18 no appreciable differences in bear populations,
19 harvest, subsistence uses or habituation of bears to
20 human foods are expected from adopting this proposal.
21

22 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
23 support WP18-51 with modification to establish a
24 definition for scent lure and to clarify the regulatory
25 language substituting the word, wildlife, for the terms
26 game, fur animals and small game, as these terms are
27 not defined under Federal regulations but are included
28 in the Federal definition of wildlife.
29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Lisa. Does
33 anybody have questions on the proposal, Eastern
34 Interior Regional Council's proposal.
35

36 (No comments)
37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing no questions,
39 we're going to move through the list here. Were there
40 any tribal comments on this.
41

42 (No comments)
43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Alaska Department of
45 Fish and Game.
46

47 MR. BUTLER: Yes, Mr. Chair, can you
48 hear me?
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we can, go
2 right ahead.
3

4 MR. BUTLER: Okay, this is Lem Butler.
5 We support the proposal as written. This is actually
6 aligning State and Federal regulations.
7

8 Recently we noted that there are
9 certain activities that are conducted by people using
10 bait that weren't captured accurately in regulations
11 such as the use of furbearer carcasses as bait. That
12 was not intended to be permitted. So even though
13 Federal regulations may not define what big game and
14 furbearer and other things are, we think this actually
15 clarifies what's allowed and what a lot of people think
16 is allowed, what a lot of Troopers and law enforcement
17 agency personnel think would be allowed, so it really
18 is -- it's almost housekeeping, administrative in that
19 sense. It's just allowing the use of certain parts of
20 big game animals and acknowledging that there's also
21 the use of small game and fur animals as bait that, you
22 know, where you may be actually using meat and not just
23 the head, bones, viscera, et cetera and skin.
24

25 I'm not sure that we really have a
26 position on defining scent lures, that really hasn't
27 been an issue for State regulations. You know I think
28 scent lures seem to be pretty self-explanatory in terms
29 of our use of it on the State regulations side and how
30 law enforcement has been able to interpret that. We've
31 had other issues with other components of bait, but I
32 don't think State -- scent lures has ever really been
33 an issue. So whatever the Council and Federal
34 Subsistence Board want to do with that we'll take a
35 neutral stance. But we do agree with the premise of
36 the proposal and think that as written it's a good
37 proposal that'll align State and Federal regulations
38 and clarifies again what a lot of people have thought
39 is legal for a long time and makes it clear to both law
40 enforcement and resource users so it's a good proposal.
41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Lem.
45

46 Any Council questions to the State.
47

48 (No comments)
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any Federal comments
2 other than OSM.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, other
7 Regional Councils. This is an Eastern Interior
8 Regional Advisory Council proposal, this is their
9 position.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Has any other
14 Councils met on this statewide proposal?

15
16 MS. MAAS: The Kodiak/Aleutians
17 Council met and discussed this proposal but I am not
18 aware of their decision. I don't know if anyone on the
19 phone might know.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is there anybody on
22 the phone with OSM that has what Kodiak/Aleutians
23 ruled.

24
25 MR. STEVENSON: Carol Damberg might.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Come to the mic
28 please.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MS. DAMBERG: Through the Chair, this
33 is Carol Damberg speaking. I listened to that RAC
34 meeting and they did not make a decision one way or the
35 other, they deferred it, because they don't really deal
36 with bear baiting out in their areas.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.
39 And they're the only Council that's met so far on this
40 -- okay.

41
42 Any Advisory Committee comments from
43 down in the AHTNA region or any of those.

44
45 Zach.

46
47 MR. STEVENSON: None known, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And did the Wrangell
50

1 Subsistence Resource Commission meet on this?

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't see any there.
So any public testimony, written comments.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

11

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Written comments,
Zach.

12

13

14

MR. STEVENSON: None received, Mr.
Chair.

15

16

17

MS. MAAS: Yeah, there are three
written comments.

18

19

MR. STEVENSON: What.

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Let's see, oh, yeah,
right here. And then we did have a public testimony on
this proposal yesterday, this Jim Kowalsky, Alaskans
for Wildlife. He was referring to this as opposed.
And I think this is his letter here, written comment.
Well, there's some redundant. I see two comments here,
written comments.

28

29

30

31

32

Jim Kowalsky at the beginning of the
meeting registered his opposition feeling that bear
baiting habituated bears, sort of a synopsis and that
he was opposed to bear baiting in general.

33

34

35

Is that what the Council understood
with his testimony?

36

37

(Council nods affirmatively)

38

39

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Lisa.

40

41

42

43

44

MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair. The other two
comments pretty much echo the same, that they're just
concerned about the habituation of bears to human food
so all three written public comments opposed that.

45

46

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Zach.

47

48

49

MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
And correction, the other two -- correction to my

50

1 previous point, the other two comments were from Sean
2 McGuire and as Lisa had stated further opposing the
3 proposal. You mentioned Mr. Kowalsky. And the third
4 comment was received from Fran Mauer also opposing the
5 Board -- pardon me, encouraging the Board to reject
6 the Proposal 18-51.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So there is
11 certain people who are opposed to bear baiting. Any
12 comments from the phone, and I would like to also know
13 if Shirley Clark has joined our meeting at some point.
14 Are you there Shirley?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So fourwheeler sales
19 are good these days.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair, this is Lem.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Lem.

26

27 MR. BUTLER: Just wanted to point out
28 since that topic keeps coming up, that the State has
29 not identified any public safety concerns or law
30 enforcement concerns associated with the actions of
31 bear baiting. That comment thing that comes up as a
32 concern, that there seems to be no correlation -- in
33 fact, in the areas where we have the greatest
34 concentration of bear baiting we have the fewest bear
35 problems.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Lem, for
40 that clarification.

41

42 So we're at Council recommendation.
43 The Chair will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 18-
44 51.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: As modified.....

49

50

1 MR. ALEXIE: Second.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:by OSM, would
4 you agree with that?

5
6 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I make a motion to
7 adopt WP18-51 with the OSM modification regarding
8 defining the scent lures and their second provision
9 there with the 26(b)14(3).

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Furbearers and
12 wildlife.

13
14 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, if I may.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Zach.

17
18 MR. STEVENSON: And just to be specific
19 in our justification, does the Council have any
20 comments regarding a conservation concern,
21 specifically, will the recommendation address any
22 conservation concern. Secondly, I just wanted to be
23 certain with the Council if there's any position on
24 whether the recommendation is supported by substantial
25 evidence, such as biological, traditional knowledge.
26 Thirdly, does the Council have any justification,
27 discussion pertaining whether the recommendation would
28 be beneficial or detrimental to subsistence needs
29 and/or users. And, lastly, I just want to be certain
30 that the Council has discussed or justified whether the
31 recommendation will unnecessarily restrict other uses.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we can get to
36 that in the deliberation process.

37
38 Do we have a second for Tim's motion to
39 adopt the preliminary conclusion of OSM.

40
41 MR. ALEXIE: Second.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council discussion.
44 It's recognized by the Western Interior Council that
45 throughout the Western Interior region black and bear
46 populations are healthy and typically harvested below
47 sustained yield, or within harvestable parameters.

48
49 This is an Eastern Interior proposal,

50

1 bear baiting is not typically used by Western Interior
2 but there may be some people around the Galena area,
3 people have expressed interest and want to use bear
4 baiting so there's areas within our region where people
5 want to have that opportunity and I feel that this
6 proposal would define more precisely for the Federal
7 Program what would be allowed in the definitions for
8 scent lures and so forth, or housekeeping, basically.
9 So I feel that this, for the people within our region,
10 that this proposal will not affect subsistence
11 resource, would allow additional harvest of bears and
12 would -- people eat bear meat and so it would allow
13 subsistence use of the bears. And so under Federal
14 regulations bears must be harvested for meat, you can't
15 just shoot them and skin them out and leave the meat.
16 So I feel that it would allow subsistence, more
17 expanded subsistence use of bears. Although personally
18 I don't bear bait but there are people that do.

19
20 Any other Council comments on this
21 proposal.

22
23 MR. VENT: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel.

26
27 MR. VENT: Yeah, just some things of my
28 concern on bear baiting. Maybe it would be more
29 contact with humans because they start to tend to learn
30 how to get to these stations and then they might try to
31 start coming in through the village. In our area,
32 we're kind of wondering what's making them starting to
33 come more into our village but maybe it's just because
34 they're hungry or something or maybe they're baiting
35 them, I have no idea. Maybe something that might have
36 a study to see if that tended to do that to these bears
37 or something.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Glenn, do you want
40 to come up here to the mic. Glenn Stout's here, the
41 area biologist for the area where you're at there. I
42 don't know of a heck of a lot of bear baiting going on
43 but Glenn may know stuff that I don't.

44
45 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Member Vent. I think I would just reiterate Lem
47 Butler's perspective on the effect of bear baiting and
48 the concern that has been expressed often. We haven't
49 seen that happen. And I don't believe with the very
50

1 little bear baiting that goes on around the Huslia area
2 that it could possibly be perceived as an explanation
3 for this recent number of bears coming in there. We
4 just don't have that kind of bear baiting going on in
5 that area.

6
7 MR. VENT: Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a question
10 there Tim.

11
12 MR. GERVAIS: I have a comment, Mr.
13 Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,
16 Glenn.

17
18 MR. GERVAIS: I'd like to remind Darrel
19 and the Council and the people with their written
20 comments, as far as I understand this proposal 18-51 it
21 doesn't deal with whether to have bear baiting or not
22 have bear baiting, all it is is an attempt to align the
23 Federal regulation with the existing State regulation
24 and therefore I think in general we try to keep those
25 regulations as aligned as possible to have efficient
26 regulations and not discrepancies and differing
27 regulations over the same issue.

28
29 So I don't see any reason why this
30 Council should not adopt the OSM preliminary
31 conclusion.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. I
34 appreciate that clarification. This is not compulsory
35 bear baiting it's just basically to align the language
36 for what bear baiting is.

37
38 Appreciate that.

39
40 Any other comments.

41
42 Pollock.

43
44 MR. SIMON: Yes, I have a concern. The
45 peoples have a concern about bear baiting because they
46 think that bears could be coming to visit just looking
47 for food or getting trash bears but for -- normally I'm
48 opposed to the bear baiting but in Eastern Interior
49 they have hunting guides, they could have bear baiting

50

1 and I'm not opposed to that.

2

3

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those
comments, Pollock.

7

8

Any further discussion on the motion.

9

10

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, yeah.

11

12

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

13

14

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29

MR. COLLINS: There's a limited amount
of it around McGrath but it means you have to sit out
there and watch the bait and it's really time consuming
if you're going to shoot a bear that way. And in terms
of the activities around town I think people used to be
out in fish camps and they were attracted to fish camps
and then they got shot if they were causing problems
out there. But now people aren't, they're bringing and
drying and processing their fish in town so that could
be part of what's going on, that change in the pattern
of why folks -- of where the fish are hung and so on.
But I don't know of any of the people in like Nikolai
and Telida and so on that actually use bear baiting.
But they did take care of nuisance bears that showed up
around the camps.

30

31

32

33

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that's kind
of an important aspect that you pointed out. You know
it was kind of a de facto bear baiting when you had
fish camps and so forth.

34

35

36

MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got all these
byproducts laying around and so that kind of attracted
bears and it's kind of shifted more towards the
villages. I hear about that in a lot of different
villages, bears coming around the villages because
there aren't as many camps. People bring the moose
home back to town, you know, their skins and what not.

45

46

Any other comments.

47

48

49

50

MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

1 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 also would agree that I would support the OSM
3 conclusion to support it with the modifications. We
4 don't historically or culturally or typically use bear
5 baiting anyway. I mean we're out in fish camps and we
6 see enough bears to know when they're a nuisance or
7 when they're taken care of or when, you know, the big
8 bears and stuff, you just naturally -- you harvest
9 them. Look at the Huslia area, for years, they've been
10 taking bears out of dens and stuff in the winter time.
11 They have a healthy moose population. We ought to take
12 that and use that kind of -- those kind of practices
13 for our own areas. I mean for years on the Ruby Poor
14 Man Road bears were taken by some of the workers for
15 DOT or -- and that's why today why we have a pretty
16 healthy moose population, you know, that's for the
17 record there.

18
19 I have no problem with it. Like I said
20 we don't use it but, you know, if the State is already
21 doing it and if this is to align with State that's
22 fine.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
25 that Don.

26
27 Any further comments.

28
29 Do we have a question.

30
31 MR. VENT: Call the question.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
34 Those in favor of Proposal 18-51 with OSM's
35 modification of language signify by saying aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

40
41 (No opposing votes)

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Lisa.

44
45 And so we're -- where are we at here,
46 we're going into statewide proposals.

47
48 MR. STEVENSON: We're done. We're done
49 with proposals now.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're done with
2 Federal proposals but we have these statewide
3 proposals. Did we have those statewide proposals
4 printed out?

5
6 MR. STEVENSON: We do. Yes, and
7 they're in your packets and at the front table.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to
10 move into the statewide proposals.

11
12 MR. STEVENSON: Bear with me just a
13 moment.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Let's see.....

16
17 MR. STEVENSON: It says unlawful
18 methods.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And
21 they're.....

22
23 MR. STEVENSON: They're here. This is
24 the statewide proposals and it begins with the words
25 unlawful methods.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It would be in the
28 supplemental material that we were handed out, unlawful
29 methods, these are State proposals.

30
31 MR. STEVENSON: Proposal 6.

32
33 (Pause)

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Some of these would
36 warrant -- some of these I don't feel we should spend a
37 lot of time on like taking beavers with bow and arrow
38 and like Proposal 7. Let's see there were some of
39 these that had shooting wolf or wolverine within 300
40 feet of an aircraft.

41
42 So there's this Proposal 11, did
43 everybody get this, the statewide proposals.

44
45 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

48
49 MR. STEVENSON: For those in the
50

1 audience and the phone it might be helpful just to let
2 them know where we're at, just to clarify, for those
3 who are following along.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going into
6 statewide proposals that would affect this region. And
7 the Board of Game is going to meet on, what is it,
8 November 10th through the 17th in Anchorage and the
9 public comments will be taken through October 27 and so
10 that's where we're moving through, through these
11 proposals.

12
13 There are some that would highly affect
14 the resources. One of those is the Board of Game is
15 Proposal 11. The Board of Game, three years ago made
16 it illegal to spot dall sheep during the sheep season
17 from August 10th through September 20th. This Council
18 allowed me to attend the Sheep Work Group with the
19 State of Alaska. There's a lot of guides that were
20 highly opposed to this because this is how they
21 basically have really high harvest rates because they
22 spot the sheep and then they pursue. It's not just a
23 one time occurrence per hunt, they can actually keep
24 doing it over and over again until they kill sheep
25 effectively. They use aircraft and satellite phones.
26 If they miss the sheep, they call for air support, the
27 guide or its designated pilot flies the country, finds
28 the sheep, they pick the client, the hunt, the
29 assistant guide up, move them to a new location and
30 tomorrow after 3:00 a.m., they're hunting. It's a
31 highly effective way to kill dall sheep and they have
32 really high success rates.

33
34 Now the success rates have fallen
35 because they actually have to hunt. They have to like
36 find sheep, spot them with optics, pursue the sheep.
37 So their success rate went way down. They're getting
38 20,000 bucks a hunt and they're mad about that.

39
40 But at this point, for me, and the
41 people who live in sheep country, the sheep population
42 fell off dramatically in 2013, a really late spring, we
43 had ice on the snow that winter, we lost all the
44 yearlings, we lost all the lambs, we lost the lamb
45 production the next year. So this regulation has been
46 very instrumental on conserving adult rams to get
47 through this dry period where we have had low
48 recruitment. So I'm highly supportive of maintaining
49 the current regulation of not allowing spotting of dall
50

1 sheep from August 10th to September 20th.

2
3 Proposal 11 is to repeal that, and come
4 up with other ways of doing it, which allows them to
5 fly everyday and basically negates all constraints at
6 this time.

7
8 So I'm opposed to Proposal 11.

9
10 I would entertain a motion to adopt
11 Proposal 11 with my intention of personally voting
12 against it.

13
14 MR. VENT: I make that motion to adopt.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel motions to
17 adopt statewide Proposal 11.

18
19 MR. SIMON: Second.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.

22
23 We will take comments from the Alaska
24 Department of Fish and Game, are you there Lem.

25
26 MR. BUTLER: I am, Mr. Chair. And
27 we're neutral on this proposal. It comes down to
28 methods and means of how people approach hunting, in
29 general, ethics decision. So we don't see it as a
30 conservation, biological issue. I think what you're
31 seeing in Proposal 11 is the ongoing concern from, at
32 least some aircraft pilots that they may, in the
33 process of trying to land or make maneuvers that it may
34 be appropriate for a safe and normal flight, come close
35 to a sheep and be reported to State Troopers and have
36 an ongoing investigation. To my knowledge no one has
37 ever been prosecuted under those types of -- or even
38 been accused of violating this regulation under that
39 sort of condition. But, nonetheless, that is a concern
40 that we hear from the aircraft association, that there
41 may be some misinterpretation of normal flight
42 maneuvers relative to sheep.

43
44 So, again, you know, this is really
45 about what people think is right and appropriate in
46 terms of how you use aircraft and whether or not it
47 provides some advantage or not to the hunter who is
48 able to utilize that method, so we're neutral.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Lem. So I
2 understand that the pilots have concerns but the guides
3 and all pilots have been accessing the sheep
4 populations for the last few years and have had no
5 enforcement exerted against them. Enforcement would be
6 exerted is if the aircraft is repeatedly flying around
7 the mountains and then lands and pursues the sheep,
8 that's where people -- the people on the ground, the
9 ethical hunters so to speak, would video that aircraft
10 flying around, document its tail numbers and document
11 who's pursuing those sheep associated to that spotting
12 activity. That's how this is implemented. And that's
13 a misdemeanor. And the reason the guides are really
14 afraid of it is because they have guide ethics
15 regulations that says they can't do that but there's no
16 enforcement of that, but it's a misdemeanor under State
17 regulations. The Board of Game -- it's a misdemeanor
18 and they're afraid of that, they're afraid because they
19 could get reprimanded by the Commercial Services Board
20 and if they have misdemeanors they don't get Federal
21 areas. If they apply for Federal guide use areas they
22 lose points on that one. So that's why they want to
23 repeal this because they want to continue to dominate
24 the harvest and this levels the playing field for the
25 resident hunters, the subsistence hunters and the
26 guided hunters and so that's why I'm a proponent of
27 this, Lem.

28
29 And so this is -- it also has
30 ramifications in the State and BLM lands intensive
31 hunting with aircraft eliminates practically all adult
32 rams from the population. And so this does have
33 biological effects in micro-populations. And so that's
34 another reason why I'm opposed to the repeal of what
35 was referred to as Proposal 207, that did not allow
36 spotting of sheep.

37
38 So any questions of the State.

39
40 Darrel.

41
42 MR. VENT: You know it's -- now that
43 you mention it, I had some concerns from our area that,
44 you know, we have these VHF radios, well we're always
45 on Channel 10, and when hunting season comes around
46 there seems like we're picking up some of this
47 information on our radios, they're saying moose over
48 there or something on the radio, and we're wondering if
49 it's from an aircraft or it could be from a drone, we
50

1 don't know where it's coming from or how to detect it
2 or anything but we're going to have to start recording
3 some of this stuff that they're saying on the radios.
4 Somebody's out there doing something and it's the same
5 thing with your area probably, they're reporting this
6 information to somebody on the ground.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be very
9 illegal under State regulations already. If you hear
10 that you should actually turn on your iPhone or
11 something and record that.

12
13 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Because spotting or
16 assist in taking of an animal with a drone or an
17 aircraft or anything is illegal under State regulations
18 and conveying that information to hunters on the ground
19 would be illegal.

20
21 We're on Proposal 11 and there's
22 actually Proposal 12 and 13, but if we take action on
23 Proposal 11, we will also -- it would also be dealing
24 with the same issue.

25
26 And so any -- go ahead, Darrel.

27
28 MR. VENT: So you want to put 11, 12
29 and 13 together or do we just take action on 11?

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If we take action on
32 11, it would be -- we could make comment that we're
33 taking no action on those other two proposals because
34 of action taken on 11.

35
36 Any public comments, anybody in the
37 room have public comments.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anybody on the phone
42 have public comments on this statewide proposal.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, so
47 we're at -- we haven't made a motion yet, have we?

48
49 MR. STEVENSON: No.

50

1 REPORTER: You have a motion on 11.
2
3 MR. STEVENSON: No, I don't think so.
4
5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, there is.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we could actually
8 make a motion to combine 11, 12 and 13, which are
9 dealing with the same issue and feel that we're opposed
10 -- no, no, not 13, 11 and 12 are the two that are
11 dealing with this sheep spotting issue, 11 and 12.
12
13 The Chair will entertain a motion to
14 adopt Proposals 11 and 12 with the intention -- in
15 combination with the intention, my intention to oppose
16 them.
17
18 MR. GERVAIS: I make a motion to adopt
19 Proposal 11 and 12.
20
21 MR. HONEA: Second.
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion by Tim,
24 seconded by Don. Council discussion. I commented
25 extensively on my opposition to spotting dall sheep at
26 this time.
27
28 MR. HONEA: Question.
29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called on
31 the main motion, those in favor of Proposals 11 and 12
32 signify by saying aye.
33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is a vote in
37 support of the proposal, which I'm voting against these
38 proposals.
39
40 MR. VENT: We're opposing.
41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So clarify the vote,
43 that's what the vote is.
44
45 Council members are rescinding their
46 vote. Those in favor of.....
47
48 MR. STEVENSON: Excuse me, point of
49 order.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

2
3 MR. STEVENSON: I just wanted to
4 clarify because thus far we've addressed Proposal 11
5 and provided a justification for Proposal 11, but I
6 have not heard a justification for opposing Proposal
7 No. 12, so I want to make certain that for the record
8 we have a record of why we are opposing Proposal No.
9 12.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

12
13 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Number 12 is a
16 complete repeal and Number 11 is a repeal -- does not
17 allow -- does not disallow them to use aircraft during
18 the sheep season. So I'm opposed to both proposals of
19 repealing spotting sheep during the season August 10 to
20 September 20th. Most of these proposals repeal --
21 allow hunters to continue to spot sheep -- would allow
22 them to spot sheep with aircraft during the sheep
23 season, and that's the reason -- they're both basically
24 trying to do, to varying degrees, trying to do the same
25 thing, we don't want any repeal. That's what my
26 position is, we don't want any repeal, because that's
27 what's helping the sheep and the hunters at this time.

28
29 Does that clarify.

30
31 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Appreciate that clarification and justification.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so back
35 to the main motion, those in favor of Proposal 11 and
36 12 signify by saying aye.

37
38 (No aye votes)

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
41 sign.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council's clear
46 on that vote and unanimous.

47
48 (Council nods affirmatively)

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The other proposals
2 that would affect this Council would be Proposals 14
3 and 15. These deal with bear, denning bears, and so
4 that's a very customary and traditional practice.
5 Proposal 14 is to prohibit the taking of bears in dens
6 as follows:

7
8 This is a proposal by Stephanie McCabe,
9 which is basically, current regulations allows taking
10 bears in dens and so this person would like to stop the
11 innocent slaughter of bears and their cubs in dens.
12 This does not lay it out in the normal manner but
13 basically this person is highly opposed to taking bears
14 in dens and especially sows with cubs. Under State
15 regulations -- I forget how long ago it was, it seems
16 like -- when was this, 2010, Lem, was that the Board of
17 Game allowed the taking of sows with cubs in dens? Are
18 you still there Lem?

19
20 MR. BUTLER: I am, Mr. Chair, and that
21 sounds about right in terms of timing to me.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So basically
24 this proposal would repeal, and Proposal 15 would
25 repeal the taking of cubs and females in dens. And so
26 I feel that these are customary and traditional
27 practices of people, Koyukon people especially in the
28 Western Interior Region, and I'm opposed to these two
29 proposals, 15 and 16, statewide proposals.

30
31 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead there, Ray.

34
35 MR. COLLINS: I'll move to adopt these
36 two to bring them on the table and then I have
37 comments.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

40
41 MR. COLLINS: So move to approve.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Move to adopt
44 Proposals 14 and 15?

45
46 MR. COLLINS: Yes, adopt 14 and 15,
47 yeah.

48
49 MR. VENT: Second.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrel.

2
3 We'll take State comments first.

4
5 Lem.

6
7 MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 Yeah, the Department's neutral on these proposals. It
9 doesn't create a -- or address a biological concern.
10 We don't have any conservation concerns for the bear
11 populations in the affected units. We do have the same
12 comments that you just expressed, we think people
13 should consider how this affects customary and
14 traditional use of bear populations. But, you know,
15 again, typically when it comes to methods, we try to
16 remain as neutral as possible, but it is noted that it
17 would reduce customary and traditional activities.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Council
22 comments. Go ahead, Ray.

23
24 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, this is a very
25 traditional way, primary way of taking black bears,
26 except nuisance bears that came around fish camps, was
27 to take them out of the den. They used to actually do
28 it with spear. And the old Chief that passed away in
29 '63 when we came was the last one that still used a
30 spear to go in and spear a bear or challenge the bear
31 to come out in the spring. So it's very traditional in
32 our area to take them in dens and I'd like to see them
33 able to continue that.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Taking of sows with
36 cubs was traditional?

37
38 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, if they were both
39 in there, yeah, that's true.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

42
43 MS. MAAS: Mic.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, you want to
46 hit your mic and say that again.

47
48 MR. COLLINS: Yes. If they had sows --
49 if the cubs were in there, too, because obviously they
50

1 wouldn't survive.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: But in general they
6 didn't target cubs in hunting.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

11

12 MR. ALEXIE: I have a comment.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead there,
15 Fred.

16

17 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, my name is Fred
18 Alexie. This is a very common traditional practice in
19 Kaltag and the Kaiyuh area. A hunter goes out, he
20 tracks all day, sometimes two days just to get to that
21 den and that hunter is not going to give up and my gosh
22 how does he know what's in that den, is it a sow and
23 cubs, he don't know. At any rate if he did kill the
24 sow, what's going to happen to the cubs, they're going
25 to die naturally right there anyway because they
26 wouldn't be able to make it out next spring.

27

28 MR. SIMON: Right.

29

30 MR. COLLINS: Right.

31

32 MR. ALEXIE: I just hate to go against
33 our customary and traditional use of hunting bears in
34 fall and spring.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.

37

38 MR. SIMON: Yeah. Those traditionally
39 hunted bears in the falltime, to take bears from the
40 den. The whole black bear is utilized and cook the
41 parts over the frier and eat those also, nothing is
42 wasted. Fat is stripped from the meat, from the
43 carcass and is used for traditionally memorial
44 potlatches so is also some parts of the black bear is
45 saved for memorial potlatch where it's really
46 traditional and we have been doing this, taking bears
47 from the dens for many years, and I hope that there's
48 no restrictions of stopping of this practice. Koyukon
49 peoples have always wanted to take bears in the

50

1 falltime in the dens. Like Fred says, there's no --
2 you don't know what's in the den, if there's a male you
3 take it, if there's a sow with cubs you take those too.
4 And all the animal parts are utilized, it's very
5 traditional for our people.

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
10 Appreciate that, Pollock. Any further.....

11
12 MR. ALEXIE: Another comment.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead Fred.

15
16 MR. ALEXIE: I have a comment, Mr.
17 Chair. Even the hide is used because when you're
18 taking a bear out of the den the hide is real thick and
19 I, myself, grew up sleeping on bear hides as a young
20 kid. So everything's used on that bear when it's
21 taken.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I got a grizzly skin
24 on my cabin door because it's real warm. I got a plank
25 door.

26
27 Darrel.

28
29 MR. VENT: Yeah, just kind of further
30 reiterate on what everybody's talking about here is,
31 you know, we're not targeting these sows but sometimes
32 it happens and there's not a big percentage of sows
33 being caught, it's just sometimes unfortunately that
34 happens. Our people, you know, want to help the State
35 on the moose population so we do what we could and, you
36 know, then they start limiting us and trying to say,
37 you know, this is -- you know this is hurting the bears
38 but, no, it's not hurting the bears it's helping with
39 the whole predator, you know, the moose, you know,
40 everything, so it's environment, that we try to take
41 care of these things such as the wolves, you know, we
42 have to take care of these on the State lands. We have
43 a problem because the Federals, you know, they want to
44 deal with the predators and we need to consider all
45 these factors when you're looking at managing things.

46
47 So it's not that, you know, we want to
48 target these, it just happens sometimes, it's not
49 something that we like to talk about because we do this
50

1 and we don't have to tell people, you know, okay this
2 is how we do it and stuff like that, it's just done and
3 that's just the way we did things.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

10
11 MS. PELKOLA: I would just like to add
12 that -- my train of thought -- but the bears are
13 healthy at the time because they already ate all their
14 berries and they're prepared for the winter so that's
15 when they like to get them. And also they don't get
16 millions or -- you know, they get what they need, they
17 don't wipe them all out in one hunt or one winter so
18 it's a way -- it's a practice that our people have done
19 for thousands of years, you know, to control -- or to
20 make the moose grow or whatever, you know what I mean,
21 it's just like preserving and feeding the people at the
22 same time.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thank
25 you. Any other comments.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My final comment
30 would be you might find a bear den in falltime with the
31 one bear in there but you don't know if that bear's not
32 going to have a cub during -- in January sometimes, you
33 just don't know what's going to be down there.

34
35 When I was a kid there was an elder,
36 Benny Albert, he lived to be 105 years old, he was a
37 real oldtimer when I was a kid and he told me all about
38 different kinds of places where you find those dens,
39 all this real detailed information. I mean he told me
40 this stuff like days, so when I needed a bear I used
41 that information to catch a bear in the den. And
42 people don't like to talk about that, you know, how
43 you're doing it and stuff, it's not something people
44 want to brag about, it's just what people do to catch
45 meat. It's like the bear's cache, you know where it's
46 at, you got meat.

47
48 So this proposal would be detrimental
49 to subsistence uses. When the Board changed it from --
50

1 it was illegal for a long time to take a sow with a
2 cub, people customarily and traditionally were taking
3 sows with cubs in dens and didn't talk about it, but
4 when the Board of Game made this legal they were
5 recognizing customary and traditional practices of
6 taking bears in dens. And so it's a traditional
7 practice. And so these two proposals would be
8 detrimental to subsistence use and there's not a
9 conservation concern for the bears, the bear
10 populations are healthy and we have demonstrated
11 substantial evidence in the discussion here because we
12 have many traditional Koyukon people here that harvest
13 bears with this -- personally. So I think we've fully
14 shown and we would like to convey that to the Board of
15 Game.

16
17 Another comment, Darrel.

18
19 MR. VENT: Just one more thing that I
20 learned from my elders when we were growing up, that
21 you don't take bears a certain time of the year. Like
22 say January, February, March because they're -- you
23 know, they're birthing babies and that's not something
24 that, you know, we don't share too much on that, it's
25 because we don't want anything to happen to our
26 families because you don't take them at a certain time,
27 you have to take them after that, like probably March
28 or somewhere in that area, late March, you don't take
29 bears in those times because they're birthing and
30 that's something that we try to follow. You know, it's
31 a practice that we use.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, but you can
34 have a single bear in the fall but you have no idea
35 what's going to be there in March or April.

36
37 MR. VENT: Yes.

38
39 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.

42
43 MR. SIMON: One final comment, this
44 practice is done in the falltime like October or
45 November, it's not in January for reasons -- it's kind
46 of lean after hibernating for a few months, so this
47 practice is usually done in falltime, like October or
48 November.

49
50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Pollock.

4 So I think we've discussed the proposal, do we have a
5 question.

6

7 MR. VENT: I'll call the question.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.

10 Those in favor of the proposal, statewide Proposal 14
11 and 15, signify by saying aye.

12

13 (No aye votes)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
16 sign.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous opposition
21 to these proposals.

22

23 Those are the main statewide proposals
24 that I feel that the Council should have addressed.
25 Does anybody have any other proposals that they would
26 like to see addressed on the statewide packet here?

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead Zach.

31

32 MR. STEVENSON: Just for clarification,
33 Mr. Chair. Regarding Proposals 11 and 12, the Council
34 was unanimously opposed to 11 and 12; is that correct?

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

37

38 MR. VENT: Yes.

39

40 MR. ALEXIE: Yes.

41

42 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So let's see here,
45 we got about 15 minutes. I think we've covered the
46 statewide proposals. Fisheries Resource Monitoring
47 Program, how long is your brief there Josh?

48

49 MR. REAM: I would say it will take me

50

1 10 minutes to go through the presentation and then
2 however long you guys deliberate on it.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we can do that
5 before lunch. We can do that now.

6
7 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

10
11 MR. COLLINS: You'll make sure that the
12 rationale is in the letter that goes to the State in
13 opposition.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

16
17 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we're getting
20 that on to the record so those will be in our
21 transcripts and so they can be.....

22
23 MR. COLLINS: Yes, good.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:used -- those
26 rationales can be utilized.

27
28 (Pause)

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Zach.

31
32 MR. STEVENSON: Folks, there is a -- I
33 just want to point out that there is a PowerPoint
34 presentation behind you so if folks want to turn around
35 you can see that presentation behind you on the screen.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, are we good to
40 get started.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

43
44 MR. REAM: Thank you. My name is
45 Joshua Ream. Again, I'm an anthropologist with the
46 Office of Subsistence Management.

47
48 My goal today is to present to you a
49 brief overview of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
50

1 Program and its accomplishments to date. I'll review
2 the funding process, your regional overviews and finish
3 up by requesting Council comments on the proposed 2018
4 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in the Kuskokwim,
5 Yukon and multi-Alaska regions of the Program. No
6 motion is necessary.

7
8 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
9 Program materials begin on Page 17 of your Council
10 books. Copies for those attending can be found on the
11 table at the back of the room.

12
13 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
14 Program is a multi-disciplinary collaborative effort
15 that enhances subsistence fisheries research and
16 provides necessary information for the management of
17 fisheries on Federal public lands in Alaska. We
18 encourage partnerships between tribes, rural
19 organizations universities and Federal and State
20 agencies. In addition, we encourage inter-disciplinary
21 approaches to conducting research and addressing
22 fisheries issues.

23
24 The Monitoring Program is administered
25 through the Office of Subsistence Management in order
26 to advance projects of strategic importance to the
27 Federal Subsistence Management Program. It also
28 coordinates communications and information sharing of
29 ongoing and new subsistence research efforts.

30
31 Since its inception in 2000, the
32 monitoring program has funded 452 projects statewide,
33 with the total allocation of close to \$117 million.
34 The following figures demonstrate both the allocation
35 of funds and the number of projects funded through the
36 Monitoring Program by the organization of the principal
37 investigator.

38
39 This slide demonstrates the allocation
40 of funds by region. Budget guidelines provide an
41 initial target for planning, however they are not final
42 and are often adjusted as needed to ensure that we fund
43 quality projects.

44
45 So I'll walk you through how the
46 funding process works at OSM.

47
48 For each of the six regions, Office of
49 Subsistence Management Staff works with Regional
50

1 Advisory Councils and Federal and State fishery and
2 land managers to ensure the Monitoring Program focuses
3 on the highest priority subsistence fishery information
4 needs. Input and guidance from Councils are used to
5 develop priority information needs and they identify
6 issues of local concern and knowledge gaps related to
7 subsistence fisheries. Ideally principal investigators
8 will work closely with the Councils in order to develop
9 strong proposals that are respective to the needs of
10 the Councils.

11
12 The Office of Subsistence Management
13 provides technical assistance as needed to the
14 applicants.

15
16 The Program requests new projects every
17 two years. Submissions must be complete, on time and
18 address five criteria outlined in the notice of funding
19 opportunity in order to be competitive. Those criteria
20 are strategic priority, technical scientific merit,
21 investigator ability and resources, partnership and
22 capacity building and the cost benefit of the project.
23 You can find a more detailed description of the five
24 criteria can be found on Page 22 of your Council books.

25
26 Once submitted, a Technical Review
27 Committee evaluates and rates each proposed project.
28 The Technical Review Committee is a standing inter-
29 agency committee of senior technical experts brought
30 together to ensure program transparency. It is the
31 responsibility of the Technical Review Committee to
32 develop the strongest possible Monitoring Program for
33 your region and across the state based on high quality,
34 cost effective projects that address critical
35 subsistence questions.

36
37 During the proposal evaluation process,
38 the Technical Review Committee adheres to specific
39 guidelines in order to assess how well a project
40 addressed the five criteria. While some agencies may
41 have more than one senior expert on the committee, like
42 a social scientist, or a fisheries biologist, each
43 agency only provides one, single, consolidated review
44 and will not score their own proposals. The final
45 score for each proposal is based on an assessment of
46 the five criteria.

47
48 Once a draft monitoring program is
49 developed, it is brought before the Regional Advisory
50

1 Councils for their input and comments. This is where
2 we are at in the current cycle and will come back to
3 this in just a moment.
4

5 Additional comments on the process and
6 draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in the
7 Kuskokwim, Yukon and multi-regions in Alaska are
8 provided by the Inter-Agency Staff Committee and these,
9 along with those developed by the Councils, are then
10 forwarded on to the Federal Subsistence Board. The
11 Board takes into consideration comments and concerns
12 generated by the process and endorses the funding plan.
13 Final approval of the funding plan is made by the
14 Assistant Regional Director of the OSM.
15

16 So you actually have three regions for
17 which applications were submitted, the Kuskokwim, the
18 Yukon and the multi-region and I'll present an overview
19 of each of those.
20

21 In the Kuskokwim region of Alaska 100
22 projects have been undertaken to date for approximately
23 \$27.2 million in funding. Projects leads were
24 predominately held by the State of Alaska or the
25 Department of the Interior, but remember most of those
26 projects also included other agencies and Alaska rural
27 organizations as research partners.
28

29 For 2018 there is an anticipated one to
30 \$1.5 million available for new projects statewide, and
31 up to \$1.6 for ongoing already funded projects. Please
32 note that the available funding for 2018 is budgeted
33 for each project's first year, not the total project
34 request.
35

36 For the Kuskokwim region nine projects
37 were submitted. These projects are listed in order by
38 the strength of their Technical Review Committee
39 scores. Justification for project order begins on Page
40 28 of your Council books and project abstracts can be
41 found on Page 41.
42

43 In the Yukon region of Alaska 114
44 projects have been undertaken for approximately \$20.6
45 million in funding. Project leads were predominately
46 held by the Department of the Interior or the State of
47 Alaska. For this region nine projects were submitted
48 in the current round. The projects are listed in order
49 by the strength of their Technical Review Committee
50

1 scores. Justifications for these projects begin on
2 Page 55 of your Council books, and the project
3 abstracts can be found starting on Page 67.

4
5 There's also a multi-region category
6 for the Fisheries Program, Fisheries Resource
7 Monitoring Program. 16 projects have been undertaken
8 in this category for approximately \$2.5 million in
9 funding. Project leads were predominately held by the
10 State of Alaska for these. For the multi-region
11 category in this round two projects were submitted.
12 These projects are listed in order of their strength,
13 again, rated by the Technical Review Committee.
14 Justifications for the projects in this category begin
15 on Page 81 of your Council books and the abstracts
16 start on Page 84.

17
18 So, once, again, we're here at Step 4
19 of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program funding
20 process. We're looking for your input and your
21 comments on the Draft Monitoring Project for your
22 region. No motion is necessary.

23
24 Thank you, Chair, and members of the
25 Council and I'm willing to take any questions that you
26 have on the Program process at this time.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Questions are for
31 this funding year, you're wanting Council input on the
32 ranking order?

33
34 MR. REAM: If you have any input on the
35 way that they're ranked, we would like to hear it, but
36 really we're looking for any priority information need
37 changes that have happened since we last talked to you,
38 any situational analysis on each of these fisheries
39 that may change the way that our leaders are looking at
40 each of these projects. So any input or
41 recommendations that you have that can inform this
42 funding process since it's limited, there's only a
43 certain amount of money that can go in here, would be
44 helpful.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would like to
49 take the Kuskokwim first, which is on Page 27 in the
50

1 ranking order here in this -- Page 27 of where we're
2 looking. And looking heavily to the Kuskokwim Council
3 members, Ray and Dennis, about their input on this
4 ranking order -- how many of these will be funded, how
5 much funding is available for the Kuskokwim and how
6 many of these, as ranked would be funded?

7
8 MR. REAM: For the Kuskokwim region we
9 have anticipated one to \$1.5 million available for new
10 projects, statewide, and up to \$1.6 million for ongoing
11 already funded projects. So it's variable on how much
12 money will go into each region and it's really based on
13 both the Technical Review Committee's rankings and
14 input from your Council. If there's projects that are
15 better technically rated then they could pull money
16 from each of the regions into those projects. So the
17 ultimate decisions will definitely take into account
18 the Council's recommendations, but the ranking has
19 already been made as you see it in your books by the
20 Technical Review Committee.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I see
23 they're ranked, what I'm unclear is, as ranked, for
24 Kuskokwim, would four be selected or five of those
25 would be selected?

26
27 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. I'm told that
28 for the Kuskokwim, specifically, we'll probably be able
29 to go with two or three of the projects based on our
30 funding, what's known about our funding at this time.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

33
34 MR. THOMAS: Are you talking about
35 these nine items that you're grading them by the
36 importance?

37
38 MR. REAM: Through the Chair. There
39 are five criteria that the Technical Review Committee
40 used to rank these. One is the strategic priority
41 based on the priority information needs that this
42 Council has brought forth. Also the Technical Review
43 Committee looked at the scientific merit so the methods
44 that were used in each of the applications. The
45 investigator's ability and resources to actually
46 undertake the projects. Also the partnership capacity
47 building aspects of the projects, as well as the cost
48 benefit of each of the projects. So really how much
49 bang can we get for our buck in these research

50

1 programs.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question would
4 be, you know, this Kuskokwim River sonar, it's scoring
5 a tied at five, but run enumeration was -- I would
6 think would be a fairly high priority.

7

8 MR. THOMAS: But the George River
9 salmon weir, they've had that for years now and it
10 seems to be quite effective and I mean they really
11 monitor so that's one that would affect me the closest
12 but this other stuff I just don't know.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, you know, the
15 Technical Review Committee's scoring that high up
16 there, two or three are going to be funded. Is any of
17 the TRC here? Oh, if you want to come up to the mic --
18 no, okay.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead there,
23 Fred.

24

25 MR. ALEXIE: I didn't catch how you
26 reached that -- like there's four and then there's a
27 bunch of five, six, how -- so these four are going to
28 go, the top four, or three or two like he was saying?

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Top two or three.

31

32 MR. ALEXIE: Top two or three, yeah.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's what they've
35 got funding for, two or three. The criteria is on Page
36 22, a couple back, if you look back the other way, 22
37 there's the five criteria they're going by. Cost
38 benefit, partnership capacity.

39

40 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. Yeah.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All that. And so
43 that's how they scored those. And their list, the
44 Technical Review Committee has scored these -- so this
45 is how they scored out.

46

47 MR. ALEXIE: Okay, yeah, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Fred.

50

1 MR. ALEXIE: My thing is and I've been
2 talking on the -- every fisheries board that I get on
3 about the sonar system. My thing is I would like to
4 see that moved up because if you got a good sonar
5 system you got a handle on what's going on in the river
6 and you can make a quicker decision as to whether the
7 fishermen can fish or hold off or wait until the next
8 run or whatever. And I say that about the Yukon and I
9 want that also applied to the Kuskokwim also. Because
10 that Yukon is a very, very big river and we got one
11 sonar down at Pilot Station. From Pilot Station all
12 the way up to Eagle, nothing in between, but there's a
13 lot of river drainages where fish spawn. And I just
14 want to get an accurate number so that Fish and Game
15 can better manage the fisheries. Better predict what's
16 going to come. So I'm always for that sonar, whether
17 it be at Pilot Station, whether it's going to be at
18 Bishop Mountain, Tanana, halfway up the Yukon, rather
19 than oh they came in down here at Pilot Station but we
20 don't see no results until they get to Eagle, that's a
21 long span in between. I mean I just want to give the
22 Fish and Game management a better tool to work with, to
23 tell us subsistence users what's in that river, not
24 wait until they pass and say, hey, oh, the fish has
25 gone by, well, we already know it's gone by, but we're
26 in the window, we're in the window system, we can't
27 fish even though we know it's out there.

28
29 So I'm always high on that sonar thing
30 I just want to make that clear.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that
35 Fred. You know they think the sonar's a worthwhile
36 project.

37
38 Ray, you worked with the Kuskokwim
39 River Salmon Work Group, do you feel that this --
40 basically this sonar project would extend the current
41 sonar later in the season to get more analysis of those
42 sockeye components and so forth, do you think that
43 that's a worthwhile project?

44
45 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, it's a worthwhile
46 project. I don't know how -- I think they're trying to
47 fine tune it so they can tell -- right now they can't
48 tell the difference between fish, whether it's a -- you
49 know some of the information they get from it, is that

50

1 a sheefish or is it a chum salmon or silver salmon or
2 whatever there, the kings because they're bigger on
3 some they can pick out some of the big kings in there.
4 But if they can use that to more fine tune what they're
5 looking at that would be useful information.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Typically when they
8 run the sonar, they drift net across there -- a suite
9 of different size gears to find out what's actually
10 there.

11
12 MR. COLLINS: Right.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They fish
15 periodically to find out what's actually -- what
16 they're looking at.

17
18 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. And the in-season
19 subsistence surveys is an important one too, because
20 that gives information about how successful the
21 communities are and what they're catching when they
22 have an opening. It's a critical thing over there for
23 the headwaters people up there, has been the delaying
24 the opening of any harvest of salmon in the river
25 because the kings come in first right after the ice and
26 the run's going the furthest, seem to be the first ones
27 in the river. And by having that closure they finally
28 put a weir back in on the Salmon River, it's not funded
29 by the Federal now, but they found funding. It's been
30 in there for three years now and before that they were
31 doing aerial surveys and they had one -- they put it in
32 back in the '80s, I think, and they had an escapement
33 of around 2,000, well it jumped to 64, 68 and this year
34 it was comparable I think. So we've had three years
35 about triple the escapement in the Salmon River. And
36 that's where some of the bigger kings were heading.

37
38 And, locally, they've been able to fish
39 but they released the -- they're using hook and line
40 because they had to take out their traditional weir and
41 it's clear water so nets don't work in the Salmon River
42 itself. But they've been releasing the big females and
43 letting them go on through the weir and be counted.

44
45 So that's critical information. They
46 need to continue that for a couple more years, that
47 practice. But it's not touched on by any of these
48 right now. So if there is any requests for funding to
49 keep that weir open on -- the counting open on the weir
50

1 on the Salmon that would be a critical one to know
2 what's happening on those headwaters.

3
4 The other one is the sheefish study.
5 They found that the Big River has over 80 percent of
6 the sheefish that are in the Kuskokwim River end up
7 spawning up Big River, which is again a headwater
8 stream. They go up and down but they come back in the
9 fall and go up there. And I'd pointed out to them that
10 the traditional name for that is (Indiscernible - phone
11 interference).....it's the Sheefish Harvest River was
12 the name for it locally so the people up there
13 recognized that. They'd go in the fall when they were
14 spawning and take those out and they could freeze them.
15 But that's not on here. They're doing a lot of broad
16 whitefish study, which is -- from the headwaters
17 perspective, is not as critical.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You would rank these
20 subsistence harvest surveys as high on your list.

21
22 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the George River
25 Salmon weir, you'd rank that high also.

26
27 MR. COLLINS: Oh, yeah. Yeah. But
28 there is not a request -- they found funds other places
29 this year to fund it so there isn't a request in to do
30 that. And there was also -- they've been doing studies
31 on the sheefish but the funding is coming from other
32 sources right now.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But you would agree
35 with the Technical Review Committee that the three top
36 priorities on this list should be -- nothing below that
37 should supersede those?

38
39 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I think so. I
40 would defer on the George River down there because that
41 doesn't give -- that stream itself doesn't produce a
42 high number of king salmon. It produces some but
43 they've got -- the value of that, I guess is the
44 longstanding practice of having that in to see if the
45 closures and other efforts are increasing the number
46 spawning up there. Because they've got a long series
47 of data on that so they can see if things are changing,
48 so I guess that's critical information.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Dennis. Go ahead
2 and turn on your mic.
3

4 MR. THOMAS: Well, looking at this
5 here, now this Kuskokwim River sonar, like I say it
6 doesn't tell the species but it tells the numbers and
7 so the last couple years that seemed to have helped
8 because like I say they've had early closures down
9 there and all this and the fish count is up, you know,
10 it really is. Now, I haven't seen the numbers from the
11 George River but that's been there 15, 20 years now and
12 it really gives us a good idea -- keep an eye on
13 things, you know, some of the kids from the village
14 worked there and they're coming back and forth, well,
15 the counts up, you know, could really tell almost daily
16 how it's working. I would hate to lose that.
17

18 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.
19

20 MR. THOMAS: Then this river sonar,
21 it's an aid, if it helps, it gives an idea but to
22 continue the progress we've made the last year or two
23 I'd like to see that in there also, if that is
24 effective as what we think it is. And then the
25 subsistence harvest surveys, I don't know really how
26 that helps. I'm sure it does somewhere along the line.
27 But people ain't going to tell all the truth, you know.
28 I know we try but, again, you know, you forget this,
29 you forget that and then all of a sudden, well, Jesus
30 Christ, we don't want those people to see if we're
31 really doing good or we're not doing good here, you
32 always try and say it's bad that they've got to have
33 more opening -- I mean more closures down there to make
34 it better for us people up river. So it's just kind of
35 a thing that goes on all the time but this stuff is an
36 actual thing, you know, like your sonar count and the
37 George River, you've got a count, you know exactly what
38 is in there and how it helps our area or it doesn't
39 help our area. So -- and as I said George River's been
40 there a long time, that weir, and they did this and
41 they did that, and they blew out something there, high
42 water and it went on and on and on, but it's always
43 been a good gauge for us. We know within a day or two,
44 boy, they're really coming in now, you know, they just
45 had a slow day or what not.
46

47 So anything in this list is good, if
48 it's going to help get us a count and get a better idea
49 to be more exact about the times and stuff that we need
50

1 to regulate everything. But, again, sonars, the George
2 River thing and then you guys say this in-season
3 subsistence harvest surveys. I just don't know. I've
4 heard people say that part of it, well, we need 100, we
5 got five people in our family, we need 100 fish per
6 person type thing, I've heard this, well, this is
7 bologna too. You know, they're not going to come out
8 and say, oh, we already got 50 today, oh Christ, we're
9 not getting nothing, you know, we got to keep fishing
10 here so we all know how this is. But this stuff gives
11 you the actual count and as to when that it comes in.

12
13 Now, we have a short, or a small weir
14 up the Crooked Creek there right where I'm at. It was
15 put in by Donlin Gold up there for the count. Now,
16 they had a camera on this so they could tell exactly
17 the species that went through that, you know, you know
18 how a weir works. Now, I don't know whether that would
19 work elsewhere or not. Because now the ones up the
20 George, for years there, they would grab each fish and
21 check it, check the scales on it, where it's going, you
22 know, and the size and whatever it is. Now, they just
23 kind of count them. But there is an exact count and
24 this is what we need for our area, to continue the
25 progress we've made the last couple of years. I hope
26 it continues.

27
28 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My opinion is
31 there's -- because the Kuskokwim has done so poor, the
32 performance has been so poor, and the Yukon is doing
33 much better, I personally would like to see the sonar
34 project moved up on to the list and if two or three can
35 be funded, maybe four could be funded if we take one of
36 the ones off the Yukon. But I do think because of the
37 performance, that the Kuskokwim has been so poor lately
38 and there's a shift to the use of sockeye and chum and
39 coho later in the run, that it would be better to have
40 that enumeration of that sonar and collecting -- it
41 also says they could collect genetic samples off the
42 coho component. So personally I would like to see that
43 sonar on that list.

44
45 I know funding is limited and this is
46 for this year only, right, it's not -- this is the
47 appropriation, is what we're looking at, 97,200 for the
48 sonar project this next year?

49
50

1 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, correct. This
2 would be for their first year of the project, next
3 year.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So Tim.

6
7 MR. GERVAIS: So if a project applies
8 and receives a low enough ranking that they don't
9 receive funding from the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
10 Program, then they would just try to obtain funding
11 from a variety of other sources, it doesn't necessarily
12 mean the project is stopped or cancelled?

13
14 MR. REAM: Through the Chair. I think
15 it depends on what organization is seeking the funding
16 and any other opportunities they have through grant
17 programs or other sources. Both State and Federal
18 budgets are in a difficult situation right now so, you
19 know, we always encourage people that don't -- that
20 aren't successful in this application process to revise
21 and resubmit in the next round and we give them
22 comments on how to improve those applications. So they
23 may find funding elsewhere or in the future with us.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Gene.

26
27 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Gene Peltola, Jr., Assistant Regional Director for the
29 Office of Subsistence Management.

30
31 I wanted to make a couple of general
32 comments about FRMP with regard to funding. There were
33 two significant events that affected our allocation or
34 pot of money available for initial starts for this
35 round. One, is several years ago we went through
36 sequestration which reduced Federal budgets. Two, on
37 the last round of FRMP funding the Federal Subsistence
38 Board directed me to continue to fund down -- further
39 down our scored list. The consequence of the second
40 action was that a lot of those projects were four
41 and/or five year projects which carried them over since
42 we're on a two year cycle. Now this year, like we
43 mentioned, we have a million to \$1.5 roughly available
44 for initial starts. That is typically between two, to
45 \$2.5 million. As we worked those projects through the
46 cycle and they come to conclusion, starting next year,
47 we should have a little bit more funding available,
48 which means if something is not funded this year, we
49 may be able to go back to the PI and stipulate that we
50

1 have X amount of dollars available more, you're next on
2 the list, would you be able to implement this project
3 this year. That definitely could be an option.
4

5 In addition to -- we had to initiate a
6 -- due to the reduced amount of funding for initial
7 starts this round, we had to initiate a cap, per se,
8 per project. Typically the way the Program has
9 balanced out over the years, we have had the majority
10 of our weir projects in one cycle and other projects,
11 you know, in a different cycle. That was fine and
12 dandy until we got in -- the Program arrived in the
13 situation we are now in, which means that, if we have
14 \$1.5 and a weir typically runs a quarter million
15 dollars, there's only six projects that we could fund
16 if we funded all weirs. So we put a cap, so to speak,
17 on what was available through FRMP to ensure that
18 funding can be spread throughout the regions as
19 appropriate.
20

21 Now over the last several years, going
22 back to Chair Reakoff's comment, is that, the Kusko and
23 the Yukon have dominated some people's concern
24 regarding to subsistence fisheries in Alaska. Because
25 of that, when we go through the FRMP process, the
26 process is designed where there's a target percentile
27 per region. If I recall it's close to 20 percent for
28 the Yukon and the Kusko. Some regions we quote/unquote
29 spend, others we over spend. So if we have a region,
30 if there is 50 or 60,000 balance remaining, that goes
31 into a pool, then we look at the list of what is the
32 next highest ranked project. So earlier on in your
33 question, how many could we fund, if we just hold
34 through to the percentile we could probably get to two
35 or three, if we under spend in other regions, and that
36 -- we end up with a surplus based on overspending in
37 others then we may be able to get through another
38 project on that list. So we try to balance things out.
39

40 This round is -- we're going to have
41 some people that are very happy and other people that
42 are very upset because we are in a reduced funding
43 availability mode right now. That should work itself
44 out such that by the next round, like I mentioned
45 earlier, we hope to be back at that traditional initial
46 start funding level.
47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate all
49 that under current information.
50

1 And so personally I would like to see
2 the top three scores retained and move this Kuskokwim
3 sonar into the fourth position. That's what I would
4 like to see, is that agreeable to the Council.

5
6 Go ahead there, Fred.

7
8 MR. ALEXIE: Mr. Chair. I'm looking at
9 three but I'm looking at that Kuskokwim sonar.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's what I'm
12 looking at.

13
14 MR. ALEXIE: That Kuskokwim sonar would
15 take the place of that weir.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, I'm saying move
18 Kuskokwim sonar right up behind the George River weir,
19 it would now be ranked number 4.

20
21 MR. THOMAS: It would be number 4.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Instead of it being
24 tied at 5.

25
26 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It would
29 supersede.....

30
31 MR. ALEXIE: Oh, okay, okay, yeah,
32 okay, sorry. I'm sorry.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so that would be
35 the ranking. The Bethel in-season subsistence harvest
36 survey, Kuskokwim River area post-season harvest
37 survey, George River weir, then the Kuskokwim River
38 sonar.

39
40 MR. ALEXIE: Okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that
43 information we'd get out of that sonar would be a lot
44 more beneficial for river-wide. Is that agreeable to
45 the Council.

46
47 MR. ALEXIE: Yes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you need a motion
50

1 to that.

2

3

MR. THOMAS: I'll make a motion.....

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, he doesn't need
a motion, I just asked him.

7

8

MR. THOMAS: Okay.

9

10

11

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to
comment, Tim.

12

13

14

MR. GERVAIS: These two projects
getting superseded, the Kwethluk and Tuluksak.

15

16

MR. COLLINS: Well, they impact.....

17

18

REPORTER: Tim, Ray.

19

20

21

22

MR. COLLINS: Yeah. They impact the
lower river there, I don't know -- I should know what
information we're getting out of there now. I don't
know if -- yeah.

23

24

25

MR. GERVAIS: I was just asking.....

26

27

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35

MR. COLLINS: Both of those streams are
down and they're the ones that produce certain -- well,
both of them, I think, have chinook runs in them.
Yeah, I agree that that sonar probably needs to move up
and I wish I had more information on what's going on on
the Kwethluk and Tuluksak. The working group over
there didn't rank projects or go through each project
and rank it. So I don't have comments that come out of
a meeting down there from the working group.

36

37

38

39

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're agreeable
that the sonar project could move up to place number 4?

40

41

42

MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I guess so, which
is fine.

43

44

45

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And is that
agreeable by the Council.

46

47

(Council nods affirmatively)

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that an
affirmative throughout. Okay, it looks like the

1 Council's affirmative to that.

2

3

The next one is the Yukon.

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Council's affirmative to that.

The next one is the Yukon.

MR. REAM: Yes, Mr. Chair, and members of the Council. It would be beneficial instead of changing rankings you say which projects you need to see funded or you really want to see funded.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we kind of are.

I heard Ray saying that the Kwethluk and Tuluksak weirs are also really important. I've had -- is there any support for these other projects, the broad whitefish and so forth, the broad whitefish actually would be enumerated in that sonar project.

MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think that's another benefit of that, is that they actually fish late enough to where they'd see some of that passage.

Any further discussion on the Kuskokwim.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Then the Yukon River projects.

When I reviewed these projects, Gisasa weir has already been running, is it -- it's just requesting an additional funding source, which is No. 4, 18-202, the Gisasa chinook and summer chum salmon abundance and run timing. Is Koyukuk here -- or Fred.

MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, just real quick, this is Josh Ream. There is a list further on starting on Page 63 of previous and ongoing projects. The ongoing projects have superscript next to them and Gisasa is on there.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

1 Fred.

2

3 MR. BUE: Mr. Chair, thank you. Fred
4 Bue, US Fish and Wildlife Service. Yukon River
5 fisheries management. Yesterday I remember Holly
6 Carroll mentioning that she was interested in
7 participating in the discussion. She also mentioned to
8 me that she had an appointment at noon, so I don't know
9 if she's available on line but I can speak to
10 questions.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I did want to
13 hear what she had to say so before we wade into all
14 this Yukon River, and if she had an appointment, maybe
15 we should go to lunch and.....

16

17 MR. BUE: Is she on line?

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you on there
20 Holly?

21

22 DINA(PH): Through the Chair. This is
23 Dina up in Fairbanks, Holly is not currently back in
24 the office but she should be back by the time you
25 return from lunch.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I think that
28 would be our best strategy is to break for lunch right
29 now and then get into this Yukon River stuff when we
30 have Holly back here. Thanks for reminding me of that,
31 Fred.

32

33 So we'll recess for lunch until quarter
34 after 1:00 -- 1:15.

35

36 (Off record)

37

38 (On record)

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to bring
41 this meeting back to order. We're looking at five
42 quorum here and I don't know where Dennis, Darrel and
43 Don went off to, off to Freddies, I hear, so we need to
44 -- we've got a lot of agenda, we can't just like sit
45 around half the afternoon if they got lost or broke
46 down or don't know what happened. It takes five, right
47 -- six. Okay, we need one more -- oh, we got six,
48 we're good -- here they are.

49

50

1 So we're back on this FRMP process on
2 the Yukon River. I'm on Page 54 in the booklet here.
3 It shows the projects and their ranking and we're going
4 to go back to Josh, we're discussing this, go ahead,
5 Josh.

6
7 MR. REAM: Yes, Mr. Chair, and members
8 of the Council.

9
10 We've gone through some of your
11 comments on the Kuskokwim region and we still have the
12 Yukon River region projects as well as the multi-region
13 projects to talk about.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So on Page 54 it
18 shows the Technical Review Committee's ranking. I feel
19 that the Project 18-205, which is a coho salmon Yukon
20 River telemetry project is an important project because
21 we're shifting a lot of harvest towards fall chum and
22 coho, but there's little understanding of where those
23 stocks actually come from, you know, we know where some
24 of the coho go but not all of them. So I do feel that
25 this is an important project especially since, if we do
26 get restrictions in chinook harvest in the summer then
27 people are shifting towards fall fishing.

28
29 So I wanted the Council to contemplate
30 that as a higher ranking project for the Yukon.

31
32 We have several members here from the
33 Yukon River, Fred, Jenny and Pollock's on the Yukon,
34 we've got Don and Tim. How do you feel about these
35 various projects. I would like Council comments on
36 these various projects also.

37
38 Tim.

39
40 MR. GERVAIS: To start with, I just had
41 a question on how many of these projects will probably
42 get funded?

43
44 MR. REAM: Through the Chair. I'm not
45 really sure of the answer to that question except for
46 I'm guessing that it's probably going to be similar to
47 the Kuskokwim, maybe one additional project based on
48 previous funding allotments for the various regions.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Gene gave us sort of
2 an overview but we didn't ask him specifically about
3 the Yukon River, you know, funding may lighten up next
4 year but right now they're limited with \$1.2 million.

5
6 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

9
10 MS. PELKOLA: As I look at this, I'm
11 just wondering what would be most beneficial to the
12 whole region instead of like one area.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Informational needs
15 for the managers is important. You know the -- some of
16 these, the TRC has scored these as to their economic
17 value and various criteria but I feel that this 18-205,
18 this coho telemetry should move up in the priority.
19 It's an informational need that all Federal and State
20 managers are going to need.

21
22 I'm asking the Council what other --
23 are the other projects at the top of the list, do those
24 look to you like they're worthwhile projects and would
25 you prioritize any of the top part of the list as
26 higher on your priority.

27
28 Darrel.

29
30 MR. VENT: Yeah, I'm just wondering
31 about that Gisasa River weir, is that -- that's just a
32 continued one, right, it's already been funded and
33 everything so they're just asking for additional
34 funding?

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred.

37
38 MR. BUE: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Fred Bue, Fish and Wildlife Service. Yukon management.

40
41 Yes, Mr. Vent, actually on this list,
42 Page 54 there's three projects that are continuing, the
43 Gisasa River weir, the mixed stock analysis for chum
44 salmon, and then also the EastFork Andreafsky weir,
45 those are all ones that are up for funding again this
46 cycle. We've been using them for a number of years,
47 Gisasa and Andreafsky for 20 years, long-term projects,
48 and the chum salmon's been pretty long, I don't have
49 the exact date that it was started but it has been

50

1 around for quite awhile.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does that answer
4 your question.

5

6 MR. VENT: (Nods affirmatively)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You have a question,
9 Don.

10

11 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I had a question. On
12 the Technical Review Committee, I mean what exactly are
13 they taking into consideration. Are they taking the
14 RAC opinions right now or how are they, you know, doing
15 the -- deeming what's necessary or what's important on
16 here and who exactly is the Review Committee. I mean,
17 you know, because Fred brought up something interesting
18 here this morning, the sonar thing and it's not even on
19 this one as opposed to being on the Kuskokwim. And
20 it's really kind of hard to make a determination these
21 when we -- if you say maybe four of them are being
22 funded and so how do we, you know, in our time allowed
23 here, rank them into what we consider important? I
24 mean, to me, it's -- you know I could say -- I mean I
25 could have a different opinion than maybe somebody from
26 my own village here as to what's important to me. I
27 mean so anyways to me I think the chinook, the king
28 studies and stuff like that I would rank pretty high.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

33

34 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chair, my name is
35 Pat Petrivelli and I'm the BIA subsistence
36 anthropologist and I'm a member of the Technical Review
37 Committee and I have been since 2005 since I moved over
38 to BIA.

39

40 The last two go arounds we've been very
41 confident with the way we've ranked these proposals.
42 And in the book, in the meeting book on Page 22 and 23
43 there are five categories that we use for ranking. And
44 the members of the Technical Review Committee are --
45 the votes are people from BIA, BLM, National Park
46 Service, the Forest Service and ADF&G, so we all each
47 have one vote. Now, the way the votes work is these
48 five areas are given grades. So there's like 20 points
49 for each of those five areas and then we go through

50

1 them and so those strategic priorities, I use the
2 information needs because those information needs were
3 presented to the Regional Advisory Councils and if the
4 proposal addresses a priority information need for the
5 region then I rate it appropriately. And there's a
6 standard of going 20 -- I would try to have 17 or 13
7 or, seven, but, no, we had to do five, 10, 15, 20 and
8 so we all had to consistently use the five, 10, 15, 20,
9 you know, like A, B, C or D, for each of these
10 categories. And there's critieras for each one of
11 these groupings and we would read the whole proposal.
12 I think they're limited to 10 pages of narratives and
13 then we review their budget also and then sometimes
14 some of us emphasize -- but then we all have -- we'll
15 do our preliminary gradings and then we go into the
16 room and then we talk amongst each other because each
17 of us has different strengths. And I'm an
18 anthropologist so I look mainly for partnership and
19 capacity building and making sure the RAC viewpoint is
20 represented. Now there's other people in the room that
21 better address technical scientific merit of the
22 proposals and then also the idea of the management
23 priorities because they're aware of the management
24 concerns with the biological things, and then other
25 activities that are funded elsewhere.

26
27 So all of those factors affect the
28 rankings. And that's why I didn't really want to say
29 anything, because we did this in May or June, you know,
30 and -- but when we left the room I was comfortable with
31 all the rankings we made. We thoroughly discuss each
32 project, we discuss each application and with the
33 information we had from their application, because
34 that's all we can use, the information from their
35 application, that we had made the rankings and
36 priorities available. Now, what you can bring to the
37 table is if you know of other information because you
38 don't have their application to look at. But if there
39 are concerns that you have, that you think, you know,
40 that you think needs to be addressed, then you could
41 bring those out. But what the TRC had was the actual
42 proposal in front of it, we read them all, we discussed
43 them all thoroughly as much as we could, because we can
44 only judge what they submit. And we know what the
45 managers -- you know, like to me weir counting, you
46 know, you count the fish, you know, of course other
47 people harvest monitoring, we know all the pluses and
48 minus because I've been doing this for 12 years now, so
49 I've heard the flaws of weir counting and I agree sonar
50

1 is a good idea but, you know, the program -- the
2 priorities that were addressed were those in the
3 region, the priorities that this Council got to review
4 at one meeting and you'll get to review later. So if
5 you put your priorities in there then hopefully
6 researchers will come up with projects and then I would
7 for sure give it a 20 point if it's addressing a
8 concern the RAC has, I would always give it a 20 point,
9 you know.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Don.

12

13 MR. HONEA: Okay, just one other
14 question. So I guess my initial question was you're
15 taking the RAC recommendations or our interests or
16 something and is there an avenue for maybe tribal
17 organizations and such to comment on this, is there an
18 open avenue?

19

20 MS. PETRIVELLI: Well, okay, I don't
21 take into the RAC comments -- the only reason I take in
22 the RAC comments is if it's put into that priority
23 information need and tribes could comment to you,
24 during your Regional Advisory Council meeting, when you
25 form those priority information needs and they could
26 tell you, you need to put this in the priority
27 information needs. And then if you say that's
28 important then hopefully the Fisheries Resource
29 Monitoring Program will include that in there.

30

31 Now, the comments that go forward now,
32 those will affect the Board's recommendation. So
33 you're making comments to the Federal Board, and then
34 the Federal Board will comment on this plan, as it is,
35 and then they'll get the TRC's listing, they'll get the
36 RAC recommendations and they'll get the ISC comments
37 and they'll make a comment that they're going to give
38 to Gene Peltola, and then Gene Peltola makes the final
39 decision. So right now your RAC comments, the only way
40 I used it was as it was in the priority information
41 need because that's the criteria used in strategic
42 priorities. That's the place for that. Because the
43 TRC just has it -- it's a Technical Review Committee
44 and technically all of these projects have been ranked
45 as to how they address strategic priorities, how the
46 scientific merit, the ability and resources, all of
47 these things.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel.

50

1 MR. VENT: Yeah, Chairman Jack. The
2 thing that I'm worried about is that, you know, we have
3 all this data that go along with these weirs and
4 everything, over the years, has that been really
5 helpful to all the fish management? How do you guys
6 rate that?

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred. Is the
9 informational gathering beneficial to the managers?

10
11 MR. BUE: I think at the first, full
12 disclosure, I'm a manager and I have a couple of these
13 projects that are proposals for us and so I don't want
14 people to think that I'm advocating for my own project
15 and so I'm really trying to avoid that if my answers
16 are wishy-washy or something.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MR. BUE: So please be patient with me.

21
22 As managers we always want more
23 information. We never have enough, period. The way it
24 is these days is the Federal budget is getting tighter,
25 the State budget is getting way tighter, we used to
26 have a lot more projects, we've been whittling them
27 down, we're getting down to just the core projects that
28 we're really relying on as far as managers and agency
29 people having to make decisions for you. We're trying
30 to -- you know, projects that we have are our highest
31 priorities for those decisions. Now there's balance to
32 other things that the Council may be interested in,
33 such as coho and new information that you may feel is
34 important. So like I say, I handed out this map of
35 some of our projects. Mr. Honea mentioned sonar, well,
36 sonar is not one of these proposals and so that's not
37 on the list but it is a project, it's not in jeopardy
38 of losing funding today but it is something that we're
39 always going to have to be seeking funding for.

40
41 One of those frustrations as a manager
42 is that we're -- base level funding -- or normal
43 funding through agencies isn't as strong as it used to
44 be and so we're going to these soft funding sources
45 like OSM, and other places and so we're having to
46 compete with the rest of the world and that's just how
47 it is.

48
49 But as a manager I don't want to be
50

1 advocating for my own projects but on the other hand we
2 are submitting projects that make the most -- help us
3 the most in making decisions. I better leave it at
4 that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.
7 Thanks, Pat.

8
9 MS. KENNER: Hello, Jack, this is
10 Pippa.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pippa, go ahead.

13
14 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chairman, hi. I think
15 I agree with everything that's been said and really
16 appreciate people talking about how the FRMP works, the
17 Monitoring Program. I also want to point out it might
18 be a good time to say that, for instance, for the Yukon
19 region, on Page 55 of your Council book begins the
20 justification for the score. So here we see the
21 Technical Review Committee justification, and what they
22 do is talk about how strong or weak each of the
23 projects was compared to the five criteria. So the
24 criteria are strategic priorities, technical and
25 scientific merit, investigator ability, partnership and
26 capacity building and cost benefit. So in those
27 justifications, maybe for people who got their books a
28 little bit early, they would have seen this is where
29 the Technical Review Committee tells us why things were
30 scored at different levels.

31
32 And then after that group of pages
33 there's another group of pages which are abstracts of
34 each of the projects so people can see what these
35 projects -- what they're meaning to do and what methods
36 they're going to use and that sort of thing.

37
38 The other thing I'm not sure -- I
39 didn't hear it said yet, but that one of the ranking
40 factors is strategic priorities. Those are what we
41 call the priority information needs and those priority
42 information needs were developed with the Councils over
43 the last couple of years. And that list of priority
44 information needs that were given to us from the
45 Councils are also in your book.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Pippa.

50

1 Darrel, go ahead.

2
3 MR. VENT: The reason I brought that up
4 is, you know, we're getting into the commercial stage
5 of chum salmon and I want to make sure that, you know,
6 we have the accurate data in order to, you know, manage
7 this chum salmon, and a commercial harvest. We seen
8 this happen before on the chinook, you know, we started
9 losing something and we didn't have the data on it and
10 now we have the opportunity to track this. I think
11 that's be vital in order for us to manage this system
12 here. So what you got there is already there and I
13 think that's a priority for the State to really
14 consider that, or the Feds.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
17 Fred.

18
19 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, my name's Fred
20 Alexie. You all know that I've been talking -- I'd
21 like to reiterate what Don was saying about the sonar.
22 Okay, the sonar on the Kuskokwim, it was from that
23 \$388,809 and I think that money was well spent there.
24 We moved it up to No. 4 position, our ranking, we did
25 that. But I'd like -- by the same token, too, I'd like
26 to see a sonar somewhere on the Yukon around Tanana or
27 even Bishop Mountain.

28
29 MS. KENNER: Thank you. This is.....

30
31 MR. ALEXIE: It would give the --
32 everybody, the subsistence users, the managers the tool
33 to say, hey, there's this many fish coming, there's
34 this many fish heading up the Yukon rather than looking
35 at that Andreafsky -- or the Pilot Station project and
36 say, wow, there's this many fish going, well, where is
37 all that fish going, it's going to all the tributaries
38 along the Yukon, and there's many tributaries.

39
40 Okay, further along with that sonar
41 thing. I see some of the -- like the Anvik River
42 sonar, for instance, okay, what is that there for.
43 It's at the end of the run and it's way down river.
44 Okay. Further going up the river, okay, there's the
45 Eagle one, and there's the Chandalar River sonar,
46 that's the end of a spawning stream, I think. And I
47 think in one or two years, I think that sonar in those
48 places should have gotten enough data for the
49 Department to say, hey, maybe we'll take it off and
50

1 quit spending money there and move one on the Yukon
2 where it really matters.

3
4 I mean I'm talking because I'm from the
5 Yukon. Born and raised on the Yukon. Lived there all
6 my life and I still use that fish, whatever fish comes
7 in the river. And, you know, I'm not going to quit,
8 but I'd like our RAC committee to say, hey, let's come
9 up with a thing, or I think she said that, that we
10 could put -- prioritize for a sonar.

11
12 MS. KENNER: Jack, may I respond.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead.

15
16 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner, I'm
17 on the teleconference at OSM in Anchorage.

18
19 Hi, yeah, the priority information
20 needs on the Yukon River that were developed by the
21 Council begins on Page 52 and the second priority
22 information need on the list was salmon run timing and
23 run strength from Yukon River District 5, and I believe
24 this includes discussions of a sonar or a way of
25 measuring the run in and around Tanana and we didn't
26 receive a proposal that addressed that priority
27 information need. So in two years when it comes up
28 again, we can, you know, be talking to the Department
29 of Fish and Game and the Refuges and Parks and seeing
30 if there is somebody who thinks that that sonar is
31 something important enough to put in a proposal.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What Pippa is saying
36 is this list here is what various Regional Councils
37 have shown as priority needs. Whether they get
38 applicants with well designed scientific projects,
39 that's a different story. What we're dealing with
40 right now is prioritizing what has been submitted and
41 we need to get through this pretty quick because we got
42 quite a bit more agenda so I don't want to go on and on
43 about Yukon River FRMP projects but we do want to
44 prioritize the various projects. What is important to
45 this Council, that'll weigh heavily with the Federal
46 Subsistence Board also, along with Eastern Interior and
47 YK-Delta's comments.

48
49 Tim.

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Yeah, looking through our list in the priority
3 information needs.....

4
5 (Teleconference interruption -
6 participant phones not muted)

7
8 MR. GERVAIS:I feel like.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're getting back
11 -- people on the conference call, push star-six because
12 you're talking over the top of us.

13
14 (Teleconference interruption -
15 participant phones not muted)

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Somebody's on the
18 phone and you got to push star-six, we're hearing you
19 loud and clear in the room.

20
21 Go ahead, Tim.

22
23 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I think the 18-203,
24 the mixed stock analysis of Yukon chum and the 18-205,
25 the coho telemetry is more significant information than
26 the one that was ranked No. 3, the 18-252 with the
27 subsistence salmon networks in the Yukon River
28 communities. I reviewed the nature of that subsistence
29 salmon network and it just deals with how salmon is
30 shared in three communities. And I feel like the
31 telemetry and the mixed stock analysis is more
32 important information than how that salmon is shared in
33 those communities.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would agree with
36 you on that, that those two projects have more bearing
37 on what the managers are wrestling with with assuring
38 escapement needs and providing for subsistence uses.
39 So those projects have a higher priority as far as I'm
40 concerned and the Federal Subsistence Board should look
41 at those. So I would rank those above No. 3, 18-252.

42
43 You got a comment, Fred.

44
45 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, I just got a
46 question. On that Yukon River coho salmon radio
47 telemetry, what's that?

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They're going to put

50

1 radio transmitters down the throat of, I forgot how
2 many salmon.

3
4 MR. GERVAIS: 300.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How many?

7
8 MR. GERVAIS: 300.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Coho, silvers, real
11 silvers and then they're going to follow those up where
12 they go in the drainages. Right now they don't know
13 where the cohos actually go. They know where some of
14 them go but they don't know where all of them go.

15
16 MR. ALEXIE: Well, I think that's
17 important.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's very
20 important. Because, what was it, record harvest of
21 coho the last, is it two years now?

22
23 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah.

24
25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Three consecutive
26 years.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Three consecutive
29 years, so we're harvesting heavily on coho shifting
30 more towards fall chum run and coho. We have to know
31 where those coho are doing to monitor on the spawning
32 grounds, once we know where they're at, there might be
33 obscure places where they might actually be spawning
34 and we need to know this stuff. And so I feel that
35 that's far more important than.....

36
37 MR. ALEXIE: I do, too, move it up.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So move it up.

40
41 MR. ALEXIE: Move it up.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 203 and 205, up on
44 the list. That's the desires of the Council.

45
46 MR. ALEXIE: Yes. Yes.

47
48 (Council nods affirmatively)

49
50

1 MR. THOMAS: Where are we?

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're on Page 54.

4
5 MR. THOMAS: I got it, which numbers to
6 what?

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 205 and 203, move
9 those up into a higher priority.....

10
11 MR. THOMAS: Okay.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:and move
14 Project 252 down the list below that.

15
16 MR. THOMAS: Okay.

17
18 MR. ALEXIE: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Yes.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other Council
21 comments.

22
23 Darrel.

24
25 MR. VENT: That 18-201 and 202, I spoke
26 about those, you know, how important was for the data
27 that they keep on there. So I'll just mention that.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Any other
30 comments.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those were sort of
35 the outstanding issues. The Andreafsky -- EastFork of
36 the Andreafsky River chinook and summer chum salmon
37 abundance, that's a worthwhile project but I feel that
38 there's some more pressing projects that, you know,
39 these coho and these Yukon River chum stock analysis, I
40 think those are, at this point, are important right
41 now.

42
43 I am not sure how anadromous fish of
44 the Upper Yukon Flats area would be beneficial. It may
45 be for Eastern but I don't know that it's beneficial
46 for the entire Yukon River system.

47
48 Fred.

49
50

1 MR. BUE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Again, this is touchy for me but the EastFork
3 Andreafsky River, that's below the mixed stock analysis
4 for summer chum, Andreafsky River is actually below
5 Pilot Station sonar and so it's an assessment project
6 down stream, the sonar does not even count, yet, there
7 is the commercial fishery around there and so it is a
8 difficult thing for us to assess the strength there
9 without it.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I feel that
14 that's a high priority and I would -- my personal
15 feeling is that I would move 251 down the list and move
16 201, the Andreafsky weir up the list. I feel that those
17 -- as far as -- we're going through a hardship on the
18 Yukon and we need to know where these stocks are going
19 to and their apportionments and various things. And so
20 futuristically maybe some of these other projects could
21 move back up behind that. Next year's supposed to be
22 better funding.

23
24 MR. HONEA: I would agree on that, Mr.
25 Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Don.

28
29 MR. HONEA: Probably, you know, maybe
30 the -- another Council would disagree with this but I
31 see good reasoning there.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So is that
34 clear to OSM, the wishes of the Council is to move 201,
35 205, 203 up the list, dropping 252 and 251 down behind
36 those projects.

37
38 MR. VENT: Excuse me, is that 250 or
39 251?

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 251 and 252.

42
43 MR. VENT: Okay.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And move those down
46 behind these projects that we're prioritizing.

47
48 MR. ALEXIE: I'll go with that.

49
50

1 MR. THOMAS: 201, 205 and 203.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 201, 205, and 203,
4 move those up on the list, those are important. My
5 personal opinion is of those tied projects the coho
6 telemetry is probably one of my -- and Andreadsky is
7 probably one of my more pressing concerns about
8 informational need.

9
10 MR. THOMAS: Can I comment.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

13
14 MR. THOMAS: If we put this list
15 together.....

16
17 REPORTER: Turn your mic on.

18
19 MR. THOMAS: Okay. If this is put
20 together by the people up at the desk here, whatever
21 you want to do, now when it comes down to the end of
22 this, we make a recommendation to move it up and their
23 recommendation is not to move it up, who wins?

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's a decision of
26 the Federal Subsistence Board in the long-run.

27
28 MR. THOMAS: So they have the final say
29 on it?

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The buck stops with
32 them.

33
34 MR. THOMAS: They have the final say on
35 it?

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Federal
38 Subsistence Board is going to make a ruling. YK Delta
39 RAC, Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and
40 Western Interior Council are going to make inputs on
41 these priorities, the Federal Subsistence Board is
42 going to weigh in all of the comments of the Councils
43 and they'll make a decision on where those projects
44 lie.

45
46 MR. THOMAS: So we're just
47 recommending.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's what we do,
50

1 we're advisory, we don't make real decisions.

2

3 MR. THOMAS: They have the final say?

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, always do.

6

7 MR. REAM: Through the Chair, this is
8 Josh. Yes, all of the comments that come from the
9 Councils will be considered alongside of the Technical
10 Review Committee's rankings in front of the Federal
11 Subsistence Board and the ultimate decision then lies
12 with the Assistant Regional Director, Gene Peltola.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At the direction of
17 the Federal Subsistence Board.

18

19 MR. REAM: Correct.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And they say jump
22 and he says, how hi sir, because his boss is on the
23 Federal Subsistence Board.

24

25 Is it clear on our priorities and,
26 Fred, you have one final comment.

27

28 MR. BUE: Yeah. I was just waiting for
29 you to finish, I apologize. But I do want to -- I see
30 this as kind of a shortcoming of myself and our
31 program, is that we need to somehow find time to help
32 this Council, help all the Councils understand the
33 projects, what we're doing, why we do it and then get
34 your feedback on what's important to you. And so I'm
35 suggesting maybe -- I don't know where I'll be in
36 February or March, but I think if we could find room on
37 the agenda that we may be able to put that into an
38 informational type agenda item.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that's a
41 good time to do that because we're going to be moving
42 into fishery proposal formation and so a thorough
43 understanding of how the managers are -- what the
44 information you need, how it's used and discuss with
45 this Council what those projects are, that would be
46 great. Thanks, Fred.

47

48 And, so, Zach.

49

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: At the wish of the
2 Chair I'd be happy to work with Fred and his team to
3 get that before the Council for the spring meeting.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That'd be great. So
8 I think we've covered the Yukon River. And then
9 there's the statewide ones, and what page are they on.

10
11
12 MR. REAM: Yes, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't actually
15 have that.

16
17 MR. REAM: Page 80 of the Council book,
18 there's only two projects.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't have that in
21 my book, Page 80?

22
23 MR. ALEXIE: Where did the rest of the
24 paper went?

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Page 80 of your
27 book, I don't have 80.

28
29 MR. COLLINS: I don't have it either.

30
31 MR. VENT: I don't.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't think
34 anybody got 80.

35
36 MR. ALEXIE: We don't have it.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So somehow it got
39 dropped out of our packet.

40
41 MR. THOMAS: 77 through 87.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, but it's the
44 statewide.....

45
46 MS. MAAS: I think they're switched, I
47 think they're just not in order.

48
49 (Teleconference interruption -
50

1 participant phones not muted)

2

3 MS. MAAS: Yeah, it goes from 24 to 77.
4 So go to 24 and then you'll find Page 80, they just got
5 out of order.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Look behind Page 24.

8

9 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, while we're
10 looking for that, this is Pippa Kenner with OSM.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pippa.

13

14 MS. KENNER: May I give some
15 information.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pippa.

18

19 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 This is Pippa Kenner at OSM. There are two projects in
21 the multi-regional category. One involves the harvest
22 of Dolly Varden on the Togiak River and that is a
23 crossover proposal from the Bristol Bay region over to
24 the Kuskokwim region and the Western Interior. So that
25 is one of the reasons why we're presenting that to you.

26

27 The other project is a study of wild
28 food sharing in the Kuskokwim, Southcentral and
29 Southeast areas of Alaska, and that isn't directly
30 related to the Yukon or the Western Interior region.

31

32 I just wanted to let you know.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

35

36 MS. KENNER: So the first project, the
37 Togiak River harvest assessment, part of that project
38 does involve the Kuskokwim region.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. There's not a
41 long list there. I don't see prioritizing one over the
42 other. So what does the Council wish to do with this?

43

44 MR. GERVAIS: What, ranking those two
45 you mean?

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, yeah, I don't
48 know if we really want to do that. Ranking Togiak
49 River harvest assessment of Dolly Varden and Kuskokwim,

50

1 Southcentral, Southeast wild food sharing events. I
2 feel for our region that number 2 would be a priority
3 over No. 1. 18-750 would be a priority over 18-751.

4
5 MR. THOMAS: What page are you on Jack?

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm looking at -- we
8 happen to have one copy and we don't have it so I'm
9 just -- I feel that Kuskokwim, Southcentral and
10 Southeast wild food sharing would have a priority over
11 Dolly Varden on Togiak because that's out of our
12 region.

13
14 MR. ALEXIE: Yep.

15
16 MR. VENT: Yes.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that's all we
19 have to say, is that agreeable to the Council.

20
21 MR. ALEXIE: That's agreeable. I agree.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we'll move on.

24
25 MR. ALEXIE: Yes.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we've completed
28 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. Josh.

29
30 MR. REAM: Yes, sir, and thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I appreciate you
33 bearing with us.

34
35 MR. STEVENSON: We're on 11D, revised
36 delegation of authority letter, 11D.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. 11B.

39
40 MR. STEVENSON: D as in Delta.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, D.

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: Revised delegation of
45 authority letter.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that's on Page
48 101.

49
50

1 MR. STEVENSON: No, sir, it's the
2 revised delegation of authority letter in-season
3 manager. Frank Harris.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Is he on line
6 or.....

7
8 MR. STEVENSON: He's coming from the
9 room. That brings us to Item 11D as in Delta, the
10 revised delegation of authority letter for the
11 Kuskokwim in-season manager. Frank Harris. We're on
12 agenda Item 11D as in Delta, 11D. D as in Delta.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome Frank go
15 right ahead.

16
17 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, good afternoon.
18 For those who don't know me, I've been here a few
19 times, definitely probably saw some of you in Galena
20 when I was out there working. My name is Frank Harris.
21 I'm a fisheries biologist with the Office of
22 Subsistence Management. I'm relatively new to the
23 office but I've been there about a year now, but I've
24 done a fair amount of fisheries work on the Kuskokwim
25 and Yukon drainage. So I just figured I'd provide a
26 little information, background about myself.

27
28 Today I'm here to talk with you about
29 the proposed changes to the fisheries delegation of
30 authority letter issued to the Federal in-season
31 manager for the Federal public waters on the Kuskokwim
32 River drainage. These changes are associated with the
33 January 2017 Federal Subsistence Board discussion of
34 Fisheries Proposal 17-05, which was submitted by Lamont
35 Albertson of Aniak.

36
37 First, I will describe what the letter
38 does. The delegation of authority letter allows the
39 Board to delegate to the YK Delta Refuge manager the
40 authority to set harvest and possession limits, define
41 harvest areas, specify methods or means of harvest,
42 specify permit requirements and open or close specific
43 fish or wildlife harvest seasons within frameworks
44 established by the Board.

45
46 In Fisheries Proposal 17-05 it
47 requested that the Kuskokwim area Federal subsistence
48 management plans -- for the Kuskokwim area, Federal
49 subsistence management plans strategies, fishing
50

1 schedules, openings, closings and fishing methods to be
2 issued independently by the Federal Subsistence Program
3 in consultation with appropriate agencies and entities.
4 The overall intent of this proposal was for the Federal
5 Subsistence Management Program, including the YK Delta
6 Refuge manager to work with the Alaska Department of
7 Fish and Game, the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
8 Working Group and the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish
9 Commission to determine the management strategy for the
10 Kuskokwim area fisheries. The Federal Subsistence
11 Board determined that some of the requests in FP17-05
12 could be accomplished by modifications to the
13 delegation of authority letter. Also, the delegation
14 of authority letter has not been updated since 2002 and
15 was due for review.

16
17 The draft language was primarily
18 derived from the OSM conclusion and justification
19 provided by the analysis of FP17-05. These sections
20 are highlighted in the draft delegation of authority
21 letter addressed to the Yukon Delta National Wildlife
22 Refuge manager, which could be found on Page 101 of
23 your meeting book. Language has been added to the
24 opening section and Sections 5H, 6 and 7.

25
26 At this time we are only asking for
27 input only on these highlighted changes as they are
28 under the purview of the Federal Subsistence Board.
29 Changes to any other areas would require regulatory
30 changes.

31
32 I will now review each section of the
33 updated language in the letter and will be seeking your
34 comments and recommendations on these revisions. The
35 Federal Subsistence Board will consider the
36 recommendations of the Council and approving the final
37 delegation of authority letter.

38
39 So the opening section, they included
40 the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and
41 the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
42 with other entities that the in-season manager should
43 be coordinating with.

44
45 Skip down to Section 5H. Guidelines
46 for review of the proposed special actions. Very
47 similar to what was added in the opening section,
48 include the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish
49 Commission and the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
50

1 Working Group with the other entities whose perspective
2 should be considered prior to the in-season manager
3 issuing an emergency special action.

4
5 Skip down to Section 6, the next
6 changes. Establish the need for a meeting with
7 important entities of the region on years where
8 conditions warrant Federal management of subsistence
9 fisheries on the Kuskokwim River. Also add the
10 Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the
11 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group to the
12 list of entities that should be notified when
13 considering and prior to implementing an emergency
14 special action.

15
16 And then the final change was made in
17 Section 7. Reporting. It would require the in-season
18 manager to provide a summary of the collaborative
19 actions throughout the season to the Federal
20 Subsistence Board.

21
22 Following your review and comments
23 today, a draft revised letter of delegation --
24 delegated letter of authority will be submitted to the
25 Federal Subsistence Board in January for further
26 actions.

27
28 I will now record any comments that the
29 Council may have on these highlighted sections.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the comments,
32 there's Section 7 and Section 6 refer to the YK Delta
33 and WIRAC Councils to be consulted, are those going to
34 be inserted into the final language? I'm seeing a
35 highlighted page in our book here.

36
37 MR. HARRIS: Uh-huh.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you see it on the
40 side, there's these comments, somebody's inserted
41 comments.

42
43 MR. HARRIS: Yep.

44
45 MR. THOMAS: What page are you on?

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm on Page 103 and
48 104 of our meeting book, which is after those FRMP
49 projects and it's referring to the YK Delta and WIRAC,
50

1 and those languages are going to be inserted into the
2 final document?

3
4 MR. HARRIS: This is right here, on 103
5 and Section 6, it's just stating that we're requesting
6 the input -- right now, from the YK Delta and WIRAC on
7 the proposed changes.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, that's just
10 strictly input?

11
12 MR. HARRIS: Yeah.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That isn't in the
15 final language?

16
17 MR. HARRIS: No.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No discussion with
20 the Councils on these management issues?

21
22 MR. HARRIS: Not to my knowledge.

23
24 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead -- or well
27 actually Fred wanted to comment first. Fred.

28
29 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, thank you. My name
30 is Fred Alexie. I' looking at this letter here, you're
31 talking about this comes from the Kuskokwim area, how
32 far along is the Yukon River itself, do we have
33 something like this written up?

34
35 MR. HARRIS: Yes, there's a Yukon River
36 delegation letter of authority and that's to Fred Bue,
37 he's the in-season manager.

38
39 MR. ALEXIE: Is that copy available?

40
41 MR. HARRIS: I do not have a copy with
42 me of that one. It's very similar to this.

43
44 MR. ALEXIE: I feel, myself, I feel,
45 you know, I do not want to get into a fight, saying,
46 hey, Kuskokwim down river, Yukon, unh-unh, we got over
47 that period, I don't want to get into that fight again
48 ever.

49
50

1 MR. HARRIS: Uh-huh.

2
3 MR. ALEXIE: But it seems like this is
4 where we're heading with this letter.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it's a
7 delegated authority for in-season management. My
8 concern is that the Councils have a seat in the
9 consultation process.

10
11 Tim.

12
13 MR. GERVAIS: My question earlier, I
14 was -- I couldn't keep up with you because I couldn't
15 find the right section, I don't really.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Have you found it?

18
19 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, Lisa helped me out.
20 But I do have to make a comment that the way these
21 books are put together has really hindered our ability
22 to follow what's going on in the meeting. I don't know
23 why they're like this.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They needed to be
26 tabbed.

27
28 MR. GERVAIS: The enumeration is
29 screwed up, I don't know what the issue was but it
30 makes it real difficult to do our job.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And do you
33 have comments on, I'm pointing out Section 6, Page 103,
34 side comment, request input from the YK Delta and WIRAC
35 on the delegated authority. Refresh my memory, WIRAC
36 and YK Delta would have representation on input into
37 the pre-season management and how is that going to
38 occur now with this delegated authority?

39
40 MR. HARRIS: I'm not familiar with what
41 you're speaking of but that shouldn't change. This
42 delegated authority letter shouldn't change any of the
43 current responsibilities of the WIRAC or YK Delta RAC.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it says it's
46 in consultation with OSM, is OSM going to consult with
47 the Councils on in-season, pre-season management? I
48 want representation from the YK Delta and the WIRAC in
49 the pre-season -- this is referring to -- each year you
50

1 will convene a meeting representative of the YK Delta
2 and the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Commission and
3 other Federally-sanctioned entities to determine the --
4 and consultation with OSM and the ADF&G if conditions
5 warrant Federal management subsistence fisheries on the
6 Kuskokwim River, are we consulting with the Inter-
7 Tribal Fish Commission, are we consulting with OSM, how
8 do the Regional Councils mesh with this letter of
9 delegated authority?

10

11 I want to assure that the Councils have
12 some input into the process at some point, whether
13 telephonically or somehow; is OSM going to consult the
14 Councils at our spring meetings? If, you, the
15 delegated authority is going to consult, we're the
16 Regional Councils, we're advisory, we need to be
17 consulted at some point. That's what my question is.

18

19 MR. HARRIS: So YK Delta Refuge manager
20 would be the -- he's the one who receives the letter of
21 delegation so he would be the in-season manager.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And he is
24 going to consult with the Regional Councils at some
25 point?

26

27 MR. HARRIS: That answer, I can't
28 answer that question at this time, I don't know the
29 answer.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So I want
32 OSM or someone to tell us, soon, on the phone, or
33 somehow, how the Councils mesh with this process.

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: Jack.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

38

39 MR. GERVAIS: I thought that this
40 Council had put one or two members or voted one or two
41 members to be our delegates or representatives into the
42 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I want that
45 clear.

46

47 MR. ALEXIE: Yes.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want that clear in

50

1 this delegated authority.

2

3 MR. HARRIS: Could you repeat that?

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We appointed two
6 members to represent -- from each Council, to represent
7 on the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission or somehow, but I
8 haven't seen a final document on that, and I want the
9 letter of delegated authority to recognize the Regional
10 Council input to OSM or to the Inter-Tribal Fish
11 Commission, I want Regional Councils actually
12 specifically in the language of the delegated authority
13 that we're going to be consulted, part of the
14 consulting process.

15

16 (Teleconference interruption -
17 participant phones not muted - background music)

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm not sure what
20 the hell that is.

21

22 MR. HARRIS: Somebody's on hold.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is somebody -- can
25 you turn the phone down, we're not going to be able to
26 hear anything with that. I think they dropped the call
27 or something. Can you dial the operator somehow.

28

29 REPORTER: Yes.

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, that would probably
32 be the best way to go, Mr. Chair, is to just disconnect
33 the call and then reconnect it and that'll get rid of
34 that problem phone line.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you can hear me
37 on the call, we're going to have to disconnect you and
38 you're going to have to recall back in because we're
39 getting the background music and stuff on the phone
40 overriding the meeting.

41

42 (Pause)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So anyways getting
45 back to this delegated authority letter. Carl, I want
46 assurance that these Councils are going to be
47 represented in this delegated authority consultation
48 process.

49

50

1 MR. JOHNSON: Well, as Tim noted, the
2 way it has been up to this point is through the
3 Council's representation in the Kuskokwim Salmon
4 Working Group. I think the vision is the Kuskokwim
5 Partnership Project, that committee will be the venue
6 through which the Councils participate in the future,
7 once it's established.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

10
11 MR. JOHNSON: But I think that the
12 current process that we've been using through the
13 Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group will be that
14 avenue until that committee goes into effect.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In the interim,
17 okay. That's what my -- that quells my fear, not fear,
18 but I have concern that there's full representation and
19 input into the process.

20
21 MR. ALEXIE: Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred, go ahead.

24
25 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. I hate to keep
26 interrupting but boy I don't know where we're at and I
27 don't think this kind of document, like I say, for us,
28 the Yukon River, the whole Yukon, I just hate to commit
29 myself only going by this letter.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred, would you like
32 Fred Bue to produce his letter of delegated authority
33 at some point.

34
35 MR. ALEXIE: At some point, yes,
36 please.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He can send it to
39 Zach here and Zach can get you a copy of that.

40
41 MR. ALEXIE: Okay.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But we're not really
44 talking about the Yukon delegated authority. This is
45 what the Federal Subsistence Board is going to look at,
46 this delegation for the Kuskokwim. So we're talking
47 about if the -- if the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal
48 Fish Commission is our avenue of comment then I'm happy
49 with that. I don't see any other problem with it.

50

1 Darrel.

2

3 MR. VENT: Yeah, I just wanted some
4 clarification on this Inter-Tribal, is that tribal
5 consultation that's going to go on, is that with the
6 State and the Federal government, or how does this
7 work?

8

9 MR. HARRIS: The in-season manager
10 meets with the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish
11 Commission and they discuss fisheries issues weekly
12 during in-season management and that's how it's
13 currently working.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm
18 your representative on the Working Group and they've
19 been the main one to provide input before but there's a
20 new -- this new Inter-Tribal one is coming in where the
21 tribes will be involved in management and they have
22 representatives up and down the river. Al Lamont has
23 been the Chair often of the working group, so he's been
24 involved in this all along and he's trying to bring
25 these together.

26

27 I think in terms of the delegation of
28 authority, then that allows -- the Federal process is
29 fairly slow sometimes because if they don't have the
30 authority to make decisions in-season there, they have
31 to go back somewhere else to get authority to make a
32 decision and so on and this is to move that
33 decisionmaking closer by giving the authority to the
34 managers down there and they've had closures down there
35 on the Federal waters that they control, they go
36 through the Refuge down there, and then the State has
37 tried to match further up river where they kind of
38 control, the communities that are off those entities,
39 you know.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you've been
42 participating with the Federal in-season manager from
43 the.....

44

45 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. They take part in
46 the meetings with the working group that the State
47 funds. They're always there at the meeting taking
48 information so we do have input through to them.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

2
3 MR. COLLINS: And there's a pre-season
4 meeting that they kind of share with the current
5 working group of what the prediction is on the runs and
6 so on and the Federals take part in some of that there.
7 But they've made their own decisions about some
8 openings and closings down around the mouth down there
9 where they -- they go through the Refuge lands. So I
10 think this letter of authority is meant to -- intend to
11 give them authority then to make decisions based on the
12 information they get from the tribal entities and the
13 others about in-season management.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, my
16 main concern was that you were involved in the language
17 of this delegated authority and that's how it would be.
18 But if it switches to this Partnership Project that
19 language should be put into this document. If it
20 switches to this Partnership Project, which is new
21 terminologies -- go ahead, Carol.

22
23 MS. DAMBERG: Through the Chair. This
24 is Carol Damberg. Just to lend some clarity, you're
25 right, we're moving towards the Partnership Project
26 which we were not able to report to you on at this
27 point. But Ray has actually captured what's going on
28 at this point. This delegation of authority letter has
29 been in place for many years, they just updated it and
30 revised it, to try to make it a little bit more
31 comprehensive and inclusive of all the groups, so that
32 it was a better understanding of how the groups would
33 interact, which Ray spoke to. And so in the interim,
34 until the Partnership Project actually happens, then
35 this delegation of authority letter has been updated to
36 try to make sure that there is an inclusive process
37 with all the different entities that are so important
38 to include.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If the Partnership
41 Project continues and moves forward and is finalized
42 then the Federal Board will incorporate that into this
43 delegated authority letter?

44
45 MS. DAMBERG: Yes. At that point I
46 suspect there would be some revisions again to the
47 letter to identify that there's a change in the way it
48 works.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we want to
2 keep up on this stuff and that's why I'm asking so many
3 questions.

4
5 MS. DAMBERG: All good.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

8
9 MS. DAMBERG: Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think the letter,
12 in this form, at this point, is adequate and sufficient
13 for what the needs are of this Council. Is that
14 agreeable to this Council.

15
16 (Council nods affirmatively)

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do I have
19 affirmatives.

20
21 (Council nods affirmatively)

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, yeah, looks
24 good. Everything's good.

25
26 MR. HARRIS: Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just had to grill
29 you a little bit.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're moving on
34 in the agenda.

35
36 MR. STEVENSON: So identifying issues
37 for the annual report.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, the annual
40 report process.

41
42 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so identifying
45 issues for the annual report.

46
47 We identified the Ambler Road as one of
48 our issues and I would like the Federal Subsistence
49 Board to know that we have significant concerns about
50

1 the Ambler Road. The impacts to subsistence resources
2 and the Federal -- associated Federal lands, that
3 borders the Gates of the Arctic National Park, Noatak
4 Preserve, BLM lands, et cetera. This is not just a
5 skinny little road. The impacts from that road will
6 have wide reaching effects, at least within 550 miles
7 of each side of that road, up to hundreds of miles from
8 that road. So it's not -- this road will have a wide
9 ranging effect. So that should be part of our annual
10 report, No. 1.

11
12 We're formulating ideas for the annual
13 report, does anybody else have annual report issues
14 that the Council wants to include.

15
16 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

19
20 MR. COLLINS: On that regards too,
21 there's no mention of any alternates to that road, like
22 you mentioned the railroad on there and so on, and that
23 might have a completely different environmental impact.
24 So I think there should be a requirement by them to
25 mention if there's any other alternatives than this
26 road.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, there's other
29 avenues to extract the mineral. They could barge the
30 mineral to tidewater from Ambler. They have a giant
31 Kobuk River right there and stuff. And -- or they
32 could build a railroad. AIDEA's like trying to force
33 this road down everybody's throat.

34
35 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the mining
38 companies don't seem to really want a road, they would
39 prefer a railroad or some cheaper way to get this
40 mineral out of there. And so we have deep concerns. We
41 should include that.

42
43 MR. COLLINS: Yes. Yeah.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There should be a
46 look at alternates that are more environmentally
47 sensitive to the decimation of the resources because
48 the road will be open. It's not closed indefinitely
49 and if it's ever closed, in reality. And so this will
50

1 have huge effects on the subsistence resources of the
2 Western Interior region and Northwest Arctic.

3
4 So I think that you're right, we need
5 to request that the Federal Subsistence Board ask the
6 various agencies involved in the permitting process to
7 look at -- rethink the alternatives that are actually
8 cheaper and better environmentally effective for this
9 copper extraction, or mineral extraction.

10
11 But we're looking for annual report
12 topics, anybody else.

13
14 MR. STEVENSON: You have Carl.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl.

17
18 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. And since the
19 Council has already voted to send a letter to BLM, Park
20 Service, AIDEA regarding the road to Ambler and since
21 that would be on a scoping phase for public comment,
22 that is actually the very sort of thing that should be
23 commented on for scoping comments because what they're
24 looking for in scoping is what things should they be
25 analyzing and considering through the EIS process. So
26 I would suggest that that also be included in -- the
27 consideration of alternatives for transportation be
28 included in your scoping letter comment because that's
29 very appropriate for that particular type of public
30 comment.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please do
35 include those in our scoping letter. Thanks, Carl.

36
37 Other annual report topics.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We will review the
42 annual report topics again at our spring meeting but we
43 can get them on the table right now.

44
45 Tim.

46
47 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you. Mr. Chair. My
48 interest is to keep this -- keep evaluating the harvest
49 and mortality rates that are coming off of this -- the

50

1 new gear types put in for the Lower Yukon with the
2 beach seining. I feel it's put way too much harvest
3 power in several hundred permitholders legal rights to
4 fish. I'm not in agreement with the Department's
5 evaluation that they're going to be able to release the
6 kings unharmed and I feel like the issue is important
7 enough that we need to just track it and evaluate how
8 often it's used and what kind of harvest they're
9 getting out of it, what kind of bycatch they're getting
10 out of it and what's -- how much mortality they're
11 getting from the released kings.

12
13 So I would like to add that topic.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

16
17 Darrel.

18
19 MR. VENT: Yeah, I think the thing that
20 concerns me is that we're looking at this caribou
21 population decline and now we're saying it's
22 stabilizing but actually in all reality we're looking
23 at numbers that still say it's in decline. So we
24 should, you know, have some consideration like you did
25 with putting the -- forming the boards for the upper
26 and the lower areas, and I think that's a good idea
27 there. But make sure that we keep a close eye on
28 what's going on. You know, looking at the numbers I
29 think it's still low and it's kind of in a critical --
30 it's critical to our villages there because we depend
31 on these foods.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're exactly
34 right, Darrel. We need -- we should put that into our
35 annual report, apprise the Board that we're concerned
36 about cow harvest and the caribou herd's recovery from
37 falling by over 50 percent in three different large
38 Arctic Caribou Herds. It should be in the annual
39 report that there's a real need to have conferencing
40 between different Regional Advisory Councils that
41 affect our Council. Bristol Bay, Yukon Delta and WIRAC
42 should be in consultation with Mulchatna Caribou
43 management, Northwest Arctic, Seward Penn, North Slope
44 and WIRAC should be involved with management of
45 Teshekpuk, Central Arctic and Western Arctic caribou.
46 And so that should be an annual report topic so that
47 the Board is aware that we're concerned about
48 continuing meeting subsistence needs with caribou.

49
50

1 So that would be topic three.

2
3 Other annual report topics.

4
5 Tim.

6
7 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Not
8 a new topic but I would still like the WIRAC to stay
9 current on what the Bering Sea, Aleutian Island salmon
10 bycatch is in the trawl fishery.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Zach, I
13 think we're going to have something this spring.

14
15 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Thank you, Tim. And as I mentioned earlier, yesterday,
17 Steve McLean, with North Pacific Fisheries Management
18 Council has expressed his willingness, desire and
19 ability to participate either telephonically or in
20 person at our upcoming -- at the Western Interior
21 Council's upcoming meeting to address the issue of
22 bycatch in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands,
23 specifically. And they had a concurrent -- as I
24 mentioned yesterday, a concurrent meeting going on this
25 week that prevented him from being here in person but
26 he did provide an update on BSAI, Bering Sea Aleutian
27 Island bycatch and he's committed to engage with this
28 Council.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

31
32 MR. GERVAIS: Is this the update you're
33 talking about?

34
35 MR. STEVENSON: Correct.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we can discuss
38 that further at our spring meeting when we get more
39 into fisheries management.

40
41 Annual report topics.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We got to move on in
46 this agenda.

47
48 So we've got three so far. So we'll
49 review those at our spring meeting.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: And you can add more if
2 you want.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we can add more
5 at that time also.

6
7 So we're going to go into agency
8 reports. The first one is tribal government, 15 minute
9 timeframe unless approved.

10
11 MR. STEVENSON: TCC with a brief
12 fisheries update to share.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, TCC is here,
15 come up to the mic.

16
17 MR. STEVENSON: I also need to get on
18 the slide projector for them too.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

21
22 (Pause)

23
24 MS. FARNHAM: Good afternoon, Mr.
25 Chair, and members of the Council. I am Nicole
26 Farnham, I am one of the fisheries biologist at the
27 Tanana Chiefs Conference.

28
29 I'm going to talk to you today about
30 our field work that we conducted this summer as well as
31 some of our preliminary results and then we also have
32 Brian McKenna, our partners biologist on the line who
33 will also give you guys a brief overview of what he did
34 this summer.

35
36 So the Tanana Chiefs Conference is a
37 Native organization and our mission is to protect the
38 cultural and traditional lifestyle and resources that
39 fuel it. It is our goal to help advocate for the
40 conservation and sustainability of those customary and
41 traditional practices so that it may be passed down
42 from generation to generation. We strive to
43 incorporate traditional knowledge into current research
44 and management systems and to develop partnerships with
45 other agencies and organizations to help achieve these
46 goals.

47
48 So some current projects I am working
49 on is the sustained -- well, the long project of the
50

1 Henshaw Creek weir as well as the science and culture
2 camp that Henshaw hosts every year in partnership with
3 Fish and Wildlife.

4
5 So this year our project was extremely
6 successful. It could not have been done without the
7 help of Fish and Wildlife, who does our preseason
8 training with MOCC, firearm safety and bear safety, as
9 well as helping us with our weir installation and this
10 year with our weir breakdown. We had Tom Kron come out
11 from Anchorage to help us and it was really good. We
12 also had ADF&G who does our post season analysis on our
13 scales so we're finding out our ages as well as the
14 villages of Allakaket and Bettles and the Kanuti
15 Wildlife Refuge both provide logistical supports for
16 our in-season work.

17
18 So this year our weir was operational
19 during June 25th through July 30th. Our first chum
20 passed through the weir on June 25th and our first
21 chinook passed through on June 26th. We had a total of
22 677 chinook pass through and then a record breaking
23 360,680 chum. This is almost 100,000 more chum than
24 last year.

25
26 Next slide.

27
28 So this slide is showing us our annual
29 escapements of the chinook over the last 20 years, or
30 almost 20 years. There was no data collected in 2006
31 and 2014, the weir was not even put in, either of those
32 years. Looking at the 2015 bar, we noticed that that
33 was our record year for chinook. This was record for
34 our whole Henshaw Creek history. 2017 was slightly
35 below the yearly average and that's because our yearly
36 average is increased due to the 2015 count.

37
38 On to chum annual escapements. Over
39 the last five years there has been a continued high
40 trend in the chum escapements, which we can see in this
41 graph behind me. There was an above average escapement
42 for chum this year and, again, like I stated, this was
43 the highest record we've ever had out at Henshaw. The
44 question we've been pondering is what could be driving
45 Henshaw to have such a productive regime.

46
47 So here is our preliminary analysis for
48 our age, sex, length of the fish. This year we sampled
49 489 chinook and of them 263 were males, and 226 were

50

1 females. That was considered to be 72.2 percent of the
2 run that we actually sampled.

3
4 For the chum we sampled 760 fish and
5 that was thought to be .21 percent of the run.

6
7 On to our science camp. So our camp is
8 in conjunction with Fish and Wildlife and this camp
9 helps place an emphasis on teaching the youth the
10 importance of both Western and Traditional knowledge
11 and prompts active participation in the conservation of
12 their natural resources. So we get students from
13 Allakaket, Huslia, this year we even had a student from
14 Bettles and just students all up and down the Koyukuk
15 River. Some of our instructors this year were Sam
16 Henry of Allakaket and Bill Derendoff of Huslia, they
17 were our elders as well as Angelina, an SEC intern and
18 Elisa Morris through Fish and Wildlife. Our fisheries
19 technicians for TCC also were a huge help during our
20 fish day. Some goals of this camp are to connect the
21 youth with the nature, inspire youth to become stewards
22 and active participants in conserving their lands and
23 resources. Also to educate the youth in sciences and
24 traditional knowledge and techniques.

25
26 So we have a variety of activities that
27 we do with the students. Some of these consist of
28 salmon biology and ecology. We also have weir sampling
29 techniques. We had Bill come into the weir this year
30 and actually help us sample fish and count fish during
31 an hour which was pretty cool being one of the elders
32 and having him actually come out on the weir. We also
33 made campfire cookies. We did birch tree name tag
34 creations as well as learning how to age fish. So we
35 looked at scales underneath a microscope.

36
37 And with that I'm going to turn it over
38 to Brian who's on the phone.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Brian.

41
42 MR. MCKENNA: Yeah, thank you, Nicole.
43 Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, members of the Council.
44 This is Brian McKenna. I'm the Partners Program
45 fisheries biologist at TCC, and I'll be providing just
46 a brief update on some of our other research
47 activities.

48
49 Next slide, please, Nicole.

50

1 MS. FARNHAM: You're good.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

4

5 MR. MCKENNA: So two of the projects
6 that I'll be covering today didn't occur in the Western
7 region but I just wanted to provide just a brief update
8 for the Council of these activities. They did occur in
9 the neighboring Eastern region. And we are interesting
10 in conducting similar activities in the Western region.

11

12 So our main objectives were to collect
13 fish samples from spawning chinook and chum salmon to
14 further develop and refine the genetic baseline for
15 Yukon River. We also wanted to collect age, sex and
16 length data to help describe these populations and also
17 to conduct aerial and ground surveys to define the
18 spacial extent of the spawning activity occurring in
19 these areas and then we'd use that information to
20 update the management catalog.

21

22 Next slide please.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're good.

25

26 MR. MCKENNA: Genetic baseline
27 development, tissue samples are collected from
28 individual spawning populations of salmon and those
29 samples are analyzed to help establish unique genetic
30 markers for a population or for a region of population.
31 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's gene
32 conservation lab partners with us on that and to do the
33 analysis they need 200 tissue samples from each
34 individual spawning populations to be able to
35 accurately and confidently incorporate each population
36 into the genetic baseline. So our goal was to collect
37 as many tissue samples as possible up to 200 samples
38 for each population and then we'll send those samples
39 off to the lab for analysis.

40

41 This past summer and fall we were able
42 to collect over 300 tissue samples this past field
43 season. We collected 42 samples from chinook and 101
44 samples for fall chum. Those were the first fall chum
45 samples for that system and for the chinook I think
46 that brings the running total up to about 112 and then
47 on the Teedraanjik also known as the Salmon Fork,
48 Salmon River, we were able to collect samples from
49 chinooks and that also brings the population up to

50

1 about 100 samples total and then 135 samples of fall
2 chum spawning at a place called (Indiscernible) and
3 that's off of the (indiscernible) and Teedraanjik there
4 and those were the first samples from that location as
5 well.

6
7 So both systems still require a little
8 bit more samples to get to that 200 goal, and we
9 anticipate being able to finalize fall chum baseline
10 for those two rivers after next season and it'll
11 probably take us about two more seasons total to finish
12 the baselines for the chinook samples.

13
14 Next slide, please, Nicole.

15
16 MS. FARNHAM: You're good.

17
18 MR. MCKENNA: So on top of the genetic
19 questions we also collected age, sex and length data,
20 also referred to ASL data to describe this population.
21 So on the Coleen River we were able to collect ASL data
22 from 38 spawning chinooks. We had about 39.5 percent
23 female proportion. The average length for the males in
24 that system was 683 millimeters, that's about 27 inches
25 and then for the females the average length was about
26 34 inches. And then over on the Teedraanjik, we
27 sampled 47 chinooks with 53 percent female proportion
28 and the average length for the males was 28 inches and
29 for the females about 33 inches.

30
31 We also collected sex and length data
32 for all the fall chum that we collected genetics for as
33 well so over 100 fish in each system. And that data's
34 going to be analyzed later this winter.

35
36 Next slide please.

37
38 MS. FARNHAM: You're good.

39
40 MR. MCKENNA: And then the last aspect
41 of the project was to kind of map out the spawning
42 grounds. We want to identify and document where the
43 spawning activity was occurring and determine the
44 spacial extent of those spawning grounds and then that
45 information is used -- we'll submit nominations to
46 update the anadromous waters catalog. So in the Coleen
47 River here, we found that the majority of the chinook
48 salmon were spawning in a concentrated area in about a
49 14 mile stretch just below where Martin Creek flows in
50

1 and that's where that pop out is there. And then chum
2 salmon, on the flip side there, were spawning -- more
3 evenly spaced out from the mouth of the river all the
4 way up to that red line you see there, a little bit
5 above where the kings were spawning. And then that
6 Google Earth snapshot there illustrates the region of
7 overlap these species were spawning. And if you follow
8 that red line on that Google Earth popout there, that
9 indicates the main channel and that's where all the
10 chinook salmon were spawning. And then if you go to
11 the next slide there, that picture there, just from our
12 flight plan (ph) and it does a good job of showing the
13 side channel and the side channels are where all of the
14 chum salmon were spawning so even in that area of
15 spacial overlap they weren't spawning on top of each
16 other, they were utilizing different habitats.

17

18 MR. GERVAIS: Question.

19

20 MR. MCKENNA: And pretty much every
21 side channel had fall chums, good numbers of fall chum
22 spawning in it all the way up from the mouth up as long
23 as it wasn't blocked off by a beaver dam.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say, Brian.

26

27 MR. MCKENNA: Yep.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim's got a
30 question. Go ahead, Tim.

31

32 MR. MCKENNA: Okay.

33

34 MR. GERVAIS: So, Brian, on the king
35 salmon spawning habitat, like ideal condition, we can't
36 see the slides too well, but it's like a braided river
37 where the small gravel and like a medium flow through
38 it, just curious, what's their preferred spawning
39 habitat.

40

41 MR. MCKENNA: Yes, thank you. Thank
42 you. Through the Chair. That is accurate. It is a
43 braided system. There is good gravel in there. And
44 I'm not sure why we didn't see any spawning activity
45 below there. The habitat looks the same. We stopped
46 at numerous locations and it was pretty similar
47 habitat. It could be that we just missed them. And
48 I've talked to people that have been -- lived in and
49 worked in this area previously and they have seen

50

1 spawning activities below where we found them this year
2 so I'm not sure what might be driving that. But there
3 was good gravel and good flow. Most of the spawning
4 beds (ph) were at the tail end of pools just before
5 hitting a ripple so that kind of helps provide good
6 flow as well.

7
8 MR. GERVAIS: And then the chums like a
9 little bit slower stream flow is why they're in the
10 side channel?

11
12 MR. MCKENNA: Yeah, that's correct.
13 Yep. We actually did not observe any chum salmon
14 spawning in the main channel but they were utilizing
15 all the side channels.

16
17 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you very much.

18
19 MR. MCKENNA: You're welcome.

20
21 And then, Nicole, if you could flip to
22 the next slide for the map of the Teedraanjik River.
23 So the map on the right side of this slide shows where
24 the majority of the chinook salmon were spawning in
25 this system. Most of the spawning for the chinooks
26 starts where the (Indiscernible) and then there's
27 continuous spawning all the way into Canada and even
28 further up river once you get into Canada. The
29 majority of the spawning was occurring in the US
30 portion of the river and we did get a permit from DFO
31 and the Border Services Agency so we were able to
32 survey the Canadian portion as well. And we did notice
33 some chinook salmon and reds and spawning activities
34 within the first 10 miles or so, river miles once you
35 get into Canada.

36
37 And then the picture on the left side
38 of your screen there refers to a place called
39 Nee'inlii, which is where we collected those tissue and
40 ASL samples from fall chum. We were pointed to this
41 location through traditional knowledge and we were able
42 to get out there this season and locate and document
43 this important place and there were thousands of fall
44 chum just stocked in here and we have just a really
45 short one and a half minute video that we can play for
46 you on the next slide to just kind of show you what it
47 looks like and then that wraps up my portion of the
48 presentation.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MR. COLLINS: Question.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray, go ahead.

6
7 MR. COLLINS: Brian, this is Ray
8 Collins, I have a question. Does that large number of
9 chums disturb the chinook spawning or do they overlap,
10 do they end up spoiling some of the salmon escapement
11 spawning?

12
13 MR. MCKENNA: Thank you. Through the
14 Chair. At this location, Nee'inlii, which is in the
15 Teedraanjik Creek, it's actually a small tributary
16 creek through the Teedraanjik and we did not observe
17 chinook salmon. In that system, in the Teedraanjik
18 Creek, during our summertime aerial surveys but we --
19 the large number of fall chum that we observed in the
20 fall were occurring in that system so I don't think
21 that there's overlap there, just because we have -- in
22 the few years we've been out there we have not seen
23 chinook salmon migrating up the Teedraanjik.

24
25 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I collected genetic
28 samples in the Upper Koyukuk, chinook never spawn where
29 the chum are spawning. The chinook are spawning just
30 like you described, in the break water right before it
31 drops into the next pool, they spawn right on the top
32 of the riffle. They spawn in typically large rock
33 about as big as that cup right there or even larger
34 sometimes. Chums are spawning in more gravelly, they're
35 usually in a side channel, it's got a side flow, it's
36 got upwelling water. It's really -- typically not real
37 deep where those chums are spawning. Fall chum spawn
38 in the deep channel of the drainages, they spawn in the
39 main stem of the SouthFork Drainage, they spawn in
40 fairly deep water. And so that's -- as far as the
41 Koyukuk goes.

42
43 I never found fall chum where there's
44 summer chum, they spawn in discreet places in the
45 Koyukuk Drainage. But chinook and chum, I've never
46 seen where they've spawn in proximity to one another.
47 Where the chinook are spawning it's really fast water,
48 runs at about five or six miles an hour, if you were
49 going to wade across the river it's going to almost
50

1 knock you down where they're actually spawning, is
2 where most of them are spawning.

3
4 So I appreciate this presentation. You
5 got one little clip there you're going to show us, go
6 right ahead.

7
8 (Plays video)

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And this is a drone,
11 cool.

12
13 (Plays video)

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that was
16 really cool. Any questions for TCC's fishery projects.
17 Go ahead, Pollock.

18
19 MR. SIMON: Pollock Simon, Sr., I live
20 in Allakaket. I've been through that science camp in
21 the summertime before and I like that it brings money
22 through the communities, that science camp, kids from
23 different areas come and enjoy theirselves there for five
24 days and they learn firsthand about fish, some elders
25 show them how to cut fish and it's good and I hope in
26 the future the project keeps going so that these kids
27 can learn. We tell them stories, fishing, old stories
28 about fishing and so it's a good time for the youth and
29 I'd like for it to keep going. It's good to know how
30 many fish come up the river so I like that project.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

35
36 Any other questions or comments.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you,
41 appreciate that. Appreciate all the work you're doing
42 as a partner. We're going to go to a five or 10 minute
43 bio break, what's known as a bio break, that's the PC
44 term for it, I suppose, and then we'll be back at about
45 10 after 3:00. We've got a lot of agency reports and
46 it'll be the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
47 who will be up next.

48
49 (Off record)

50

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is Yukon River
4 Drainage Fisheries Association, is YRDFA here. Where
5 did Wayne go. There he is, welcome.

6

7 MR. JENKINS: Thank you. Good
8 afternoon, Chairman Reakoff and Western Interior RAC
9 members. Thanks for this opportunity to come before
10 you. My name is Wayne Jenkins, I'm the executive
11 director of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
12 Association, better known as YRDFA.

13

14 In respect to your full agenda today
15 I'd like to use the time to discuss BLM and RMP process
16 issues rather than sharing our usual YRDFA reports,
17 there are so many of them. You have a paper of those
18 reports and when you have time you could look those
19 over and, of course, at any time you can contact me or
20 my Staff at the office if you have any input or
21 questions about those.

22

23 You also have, I've provided you a
24 paper copy of our newly resurrected newsletter and a
25 new brochure that we were able to put together. YRDFA
26 Board and Staff would like to thank Department of
27 Interior, Office of Subsistence Management support for
28 some of our programs through the FRMP program and we
29 greatly appreciate that support.

30

31 And if you have no questions and we
32 will give an expanded report in the next meeting around
33 fisheries, but if you don't have any specific questions
34 for YRDFA and our programs right now I'd like to turn
35 it over to Suzanne Little and we'll go into speaking a
36 little about BLM resource management planning.

37

38 MR. ALEXIE: I got a question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred, go ahead.

41

42 MR. ALEXIE: A question, Wayne, you
43 know about that sonar thing I always bring up at every
44 meeting. I need help drafting some kind of thing to
45 put to the OSM, all those guys, you know. Is there
46 something that YRDFA can do to help along that line.

47

48 MR. JENKINS: Well, through the Chair,
49 Mr. Alexie. We could talk about this on the side.

50

1 Right off the top, I know YRDFA's been involved in
2 science projects and monitoring projects in the past,
3 but I wouldn't want to guess at -- I think with the
4 funding as tight as it is and getting the specifics of
5 what information you're interested in trying to get in
6 the middle of the river, we did have a monitoring
7 project in the past, I don't think it was FRMP, but,
8 you know, Mr. Stan Zuray's Rapids project that gained
9 some information upper, middle and that does seem to be
10 an area that, you know, we get the information down at
11 the mouth and then we get it up at Eagle and then a lot
12 goes on in between that we don't seem to know much
13 about.

14
15 MR. ALEXIE: Uh-huh.

16
17 MR. JENKINS: But we could talk about
18 it further and see what we could do.

19
20 MR. ALEXIE: You know, why I'm asking,
21 it would help you better understand the fish when it
22 comes in down there, the sonar down there and end up in
23 Eagle. You'd have beautiful reports, saying, hey, this
24 fish was at Kaltag and there was this many or Nulato
25 and there was this many, and all the spawning areas,
26 Koyukuk River, we'd have all that information. Right
27 now we don't have it, we're just guessing.

28
29 I am interested in that sonar project,
30 I am. And like the river, 338,000 for sonar, wasn't
31 that in the proposal, so, you know, but I'm still
32 interested.

33
34 Okay, thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. So any
37 other questions right now.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to go
42 into the BLM RMP issue with -- and so go right ahead,
43 Suzanne.

44
45 MS. LITTLE: Okay. Thank you, Chairman
46 Reakoff and Council members. I'm Suzanne Little, I'm
47 with the PEW Charitable Trust and Wayne and I work
48 together to provide technical assistance to tribes
49 whose traditional land is being planned by the BLM in
50

1 either the Central Yukon Plan or the Bering Sea Western
2 Interior Plan, and if you look at the map on the back
3 wall you can see the dark yellow land, there's a heck
4 of a lot of it and that's BLM land and that's all the
5 land that's being planned, or a lot of it that's being
6 planned in the two -- in the Central Yukon Plan and the
7 Bering Sea Plan. About 26 million acres of land, it's
8 a lot of land and many people depend on the resources
9 that come from the habitat of that land.

10

11 So it's important from a subsistence
12 perspective that good choices -- that the process is
13 good, that BLM has a good process with the BLM resource
14 management planning and that subsistence resources are
15 protected for the large number of communities that live
16 with the land.

17

18 I wanted to thank the Council -- we
19 made a presentation, you'll recall, at your last
20 meeting, and we were trying to encourage sharing of
21 data between the Office of Subsistence Management and
22 BLM because to our knowledge that had not happened, and
23 we've been in communication with BLM and we understand
24 that there is an intention by BLM to request that
25 information after they're done with this particular
26 phase of their work. So we're trusting that BLM is
27 going to follow through with that and obtain the Office
28 of Subsistence Management data there.

29

30 I wanted to bring to your attention, I
31 just got back from Washington DC where I visited the
32 National BLM planning and NEPA leadership and there's a
33 very good chance that the BLM leadership is going to
34 change to the degree that it's going to affect the
35 Central Yukon Plan and the Bearing Sea Plan here in
36 Alaska. It may be that the focus is going to shift in
37 these planning efforts to prioritizing access for
38 mining and access for recreational hunting. So if that
39 is the picture, and we're not certain it is, but we
40 think there is a strong possibility of that, this
41 body's function is even more important in this public
42 land management process. So the -- I guess we would
43 like to be able to come back and keep you apprised of
44 our perspective and the communities perspectives of the
45 planning process as it moves forward, given changes
46 that may be occurring with the National Administration,
47 BLM, particularly.

48

49 Do you want to add more there.

50

1 MR. JENKINS: It seems to me it's all
2 shifting under our feet or above our heads, or in DC or
3 whatever, and I don't think it's lost on anybody that
4 we have some real challenges ahead in protecting the
5 way of life in the Interior Alaska. So, you know, we
6 are reaching out to you and to any other agency folks
7 at the tribal level and at the community level to
8 support and help BLM come to the right alternatives, or
9 the right positions on these issues. And so your
10 creativity, your input, your information, your ideas,
11 because this is a new world, this is a very different
12 situation than we had during the Obama Administration,
13 we're not clear yet on what it's going to be, but I
14 don't think anybody thinks it's going to look pretty.

15
16 So that's one of the reasons we're here
17 and we're hoping to partner and work together with you
18 for the best outcomes that we can get in the face of
19 what we're all dealing with.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel.

22
23 MR. VENT: I spoke on just a little bit
24 of this before, about areas of critical environmental
25 concerns. It has to deal with documenting what the
26 subsistence users, the tribes, whatever, the lands they
27 use and documenting all this stuff that gives us --
28 gives them an area, a detailed area of what we do with
29 this land out there. It's just -- we utilize
30 everything -- whatever we have to do with the lands, we
31 utilize those. But now it's kind of like we're -- we
32 sent them the documentation but it came back that it
33 wasn't approved or something's going on, like he's
34 saying, that we need to start looking at avenues on how
35 to get this material out there.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel.

38
39 Don.

40
41 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Wayne, I was just wondering, you know, what kind of
43 timeline we're on. You know, Ruby drafted one up and
44 you guys should have got that so where are we in a
45 timeframe, are we responding in a timely fashion to
46 what BLM wants?

47
48 MR. JENKINS: Through the Chair. Mr.
49 Honea. I think that's a good question for BLM. The
50

1 timeframes keep changing but, you know, I would just
2 encourage Ruby to keep pressing on. I think you're in a
3 cooperative agency status request period right now,
4 just keeping pressing on and we will be working with
5 you, and with BLM, for trying to move it forward
6 together. I mean that is the long range goal is to have
7 a good healthy working relationship between the
8 communities and BLM. And so, you know, things change
9 politically, but we keep on working as human beings
10 with one another, with the tools that we can identify
11 that work best at the time so we just keep on -- but I
12 would ask BLM what the timeline is looking like right
13 now.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This Council made
16 extensive comments at our spring meeting to the BLM RMP
17 process for Central Yukon and BLM is going to make --
18 is going to be here this afternoon so we'll be
19 discussing that timeline and so forth further with
20 them.

21
22 This Council, I, personally, as a
23 Council member, would like to be very proactive with
24 the alternatives and commenting on the alternatives.
25 These alternatives and how those lands are managed or
26 how they're administered are very important to the
27 subsistence users. As you say, there's significant
28 amounts of BLM land in the Western Interior region,
29 whether from one end to the other, so these are
30 important lands and resources that people of this
31 region use, including myself.

32
33 Any other comments or questions from
34 YRDFA.

35
36 Darrel.

37
38 MR. VENT: Yeah, I'd just like to thank
39 Wayne for all the effort he's put into this and trying
40 to make sure that, you know, we get protection for our
41 areas because it's critical for us to survive. If we
42 don't have those protections in there they could do
43 anything they want to just go right through our areas
44 like this Ambler Road, a lot of the mining projects,
45 anything that they want to do. And it could hurt us in
46 the future.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

49
50

1 MR. JENKINS: Through the Chair. Mr.
2 Vent, thank you. And I would also thank each of you,
3 you're volunteers, you're doing all this on your own
4 time, which is an amazing sacrifice that you make for
5 your region and your communities. So we appreciate
6 your work.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate all
9 that YRDFA does for the Yukon River fisheries and for
10 the people of this region.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 So we're on US Fish and Wildlife agency
15 reports.

16
17 MR. SEPPI: Mr. Chair, Bruce Seppi.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

20
21 MR. SEPPI: Any chance that BLM could
22 go next since we're talking about land use plans and I
23 have to catch an airplane.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Is that
26 amicable with US Fish and Wildlife Staff. Yes, go
27 ahead, Bruce.

28
29 MR. SEPPI: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Since you got a
32 plane, go ahead.

33
34 MR. SEPPI: Yeah, okay. Mr. Chair.
35 Members of the Board. I'm Bruce Seppi, wildlife
36 biologist and subsistence coordinator for the Anchorage
37 Field Office BLM.

38
39 I do have some handouts, let me hand
40 these out quick, for the Bering Sea Western Interior.
41 It's just a newsletter but it does give a timeline
42 there about how we're working and when we expect to
43 have the draft out for that. Staff, all the Staff has
44 been working on the land use plan, putting alternatives
45 together and a draft of that will be out probably early
46 2019 and so most of the information in there is a
47 tentative schedule of what will be. But there's also,
48 most importantly, contacts for our field manager and
49 for our lead planner on the plan. So any time you have
50

1 comments or want to know where the plan is at or what
2 types of things the plan alternatives will allow,
3 please contact the field manager and those planners to
4 let them know what you think about things because
5 that's the most important. We will have meetings when
6 that draft is out but it's going to be over another a
7 year before that happens so please feel free to get on
8 the website to get information and also call the field
9 managers when you want to know information.

10

11 Incidentally we have a new field
12 manager, her name is Bonnie Million and she wrote a
13 little blurb in that handout there. She came on in
14 early mid-winter of this year and she is the main
15 contact for all things, Anchorage Field Office, of
16 course, and the BSWI plan. She's been up here before.
17 She came from Grants Pass Oregon but she's worked for
18 the Park Service up here and knows Alaska well and she
19 really did hit the ground running so she knows the
20 issues.

21

22 Also our district manager, Mark
23 Spencer, just announced that he's going to retire and
24 so he'll be gone sometime in October and that position
25 will be filled but all Federal positions are -- how
26 should I say it, kind of a strange scenario in filling
27 positions, and we can't just recruit out in the general
28 population, we have to recruit within the agency. So
29 that position will be filled but I'm not sure how long
30 it will take and how much priority it has but it will
31 be recruited probably from within BLM.

32

33 Also we're doing an environmental
34 assessment on the Iditarod Trail and use on the
35 Iditarod Trail, the national historic trail, which goes
36 right through this RAC region. We permit portions of
37 the Iditarod Dog Race, the Iron Dog Snowmachine race,
38 all kinds of activities that happen during the races
39 and after them along the Iditarod Trail and that EA is
40 getting to be 10 years old now so we're going to be
41 bringing that back out and reevaluating it. There's a
42 lot of people that want to do commercial activities
43 that need special recreation permits along the Iditarod
44 Trail, sometimes during the race, sometimes after, and
45 so there's a heck of a lot of activity on the trail on
46 Federal lands out there and so that EA addresses some
47 of those impacts. And, of course, those impacts happen
48 mostly in the winter, the trail isn't all that passable
49 in the summer, but it's mostly during the winter, and I

50

1 will be responsible for doing the .810 subsistence
2 analysis on that. The timeframe of that is they want
3 that EA to be done before this year's winter use of the
4 trail so it's on a short timeframe.

5
6 Also for other land use plans, I know
7 Unit 23 is outside this RAC, but, you know, we
8 discussed caribou all day today and yesterday and
9 especially the Western Arctic Caribou and talked a
10 little bit about the Squirrel River. Anchorage Field
11 Office is responsible for the Squirrel River and that
12 has large portions of BLM lands and that was --
13 Kobuk/Seward Plan has been done since -- maybe some of
14 the other BLM guys would know, since, I think about
15 2008 and we always intended to do a step plan
16 associated with the Kobuk/Seward Plan for the Squirrel
17 River and we haven't, and then we switched management
18 boundaries and management went from Central Yukon to
19 Anchorage Field Office, and so it delayed the whole
20 thing and for whatever reason, bureaucracy or whatever
21 else, but we're putting that into high gear because it
22 needs to be done and we basically have to start over
23 because it's been nearly 10 years since we went out to
24 the villages and scoped that. But basically we're
25 going to be going out this year, they want to start
26 scoping, have a draft EA out in March and start scoping
27 in February, have a draft EA out this March and then
28 have something out for public comment by April of this
29 coming year, April of 2018. And then sign the ROD, or
30 sign the record of decision by June of 2018. I just
31 found that out. That's a pretty short and aggressive
32 timeframe but that will be an EA, an environmental
33 assessment that's based off of the Kobuk/Seward Plan.
34 All the issues you talk about, conflicts with guides
35 and outfitters and transporters and caribou and
36 subsistence hunters, that's the issues we're going to
37 be talking about and that will be in that EA and how we
38 -- how many guides and outfitters we allow in there and
39 even though it's closed right now to caribou, and how
40 many transporters we allow in there. Right now since
41 we're working on renewing that plan we've frozen the
42 number of guides and outfitters and transporters we
43 have in there so we won't allow more. But that plan
44 will determine how many we allow later.

45
46 So are there any questions on that this
47 far, otherwise I'll just forage ahead here.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I don't see
50

1 any, go ahead and continue.

2
3 MR. SEPPI: Okay. And then finally the
4 main other thing that I've been very much immersed in
5 and our field office is emersed in is the Donlin Gold
6 Environmental Impact Statement, that is coming to have
7 the final ES out and they're talking about the Corps of
8 Engineers, the lead agency, they're going to have that
9 out in the early part of 2018. I spent much of the
10 summer pouring over that document. It was released to
11 the agencies for agency review. Depending on what
12 chapters you're talking about, you're talking about
13 three to 5,000 pages of information. I'm responsible
14 for doing the .801 analysis again. Like I said,
15 they're going to have that out, the final EIS will be
16 out for public review in what they're saying now
17 January of 2018 and I have to have a final .810
18 analysis, subsistence impact analysis out by December.
19 That may have to be tweaked a little bit once we get
20 the final because the final, there was a lot of
21 comments from all the agencies to them and I assume
22 that that document will change one way or another.

23
24 I would urge you to try to look at that
25 document and comment on it because there's still six
26 alternatives involved in there but they have other
27 options within alternatives that involves rerouting the
28 pipeline and things like that. But basically they're
29 still talking about a gas pipeline from Cook Inlet to
30 the Kuskokwim River and barging, have industrial
31 barging on the Kuskokwim to supply that mine with
32 diesel fuel and freight. So I would urge you to stay
33 tuned and look on the Corps of Engineer's website for
34 that timeframe and review that.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll try. 5,000
37 pages is a lot of material.

38
39 MR. SEPPI: Well, it's by chapter and
40 so look at the wildlife sections, look at their
41 subsistence sections. They've got a health and human
42 impact section, which you need to look at. They've got
43 a contaminant section that talks about mercury and
44 arsenic and I'm really not at liberty to give you my
45 opinion on that but I want you to look at that and I'm
46 sure you're going to have your own opinions on it and
47 it's very much worth commenting back on it. My feeling
48 is, since this is in the late stages of the NEPA
49 process that a lot of comments don't get incorporated

50

1 into EIS' simply because it's such in a late stage but
2 this EIS is far different than -- there's a lot of
3 changes in it from that draft and so bottom line is I
4 would urge this RAC, especially, to look at it because
5 it's right in the middle of your region.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, well we'll
8 look at it for sure.

9
10 Any questions.

11
12 MR. COLLINS: Yes, a question. I
13 testified to Donlin and tried to get them to pull that
14 pipeline away from down in the black spruce and they
15 said they couldn't do that because it was wetlands and
16 I'm wondering is that a declaration that can't be
17 changed because it would be a lot less impact on game
18 and so on. Right next to the mountains is where all
19 the moose move.

20
21 MR. SEPPI: You're talking about an
22 area as it comes past.....

23
24 MR. COLLINS: From Farewell across
25 there to Big River and so on there.

26
27 MR. SEPPI: Yes.

28
29 MR. COLLINS: If they pulled it away
30 from the mountain. Right now it's going to provide a
31 fourwheeler road, once they do that right-of-way, to
32 all those drainages along there which are used by
33 subsistence hunters.

34
35 MR. SEPPI: Yes. And I've discussed
36 that in the .810 analysis, not only does it make a
37 fourwheeler route for everyone but we're talking about
38 improved access for non-qualified subsistence users for
39 outside hunters to come into that area.

40
41 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

42
43 MR. SEPPI: Let alone the impacts of
44 the pipeline itself, but it's more of an access issue
45 there than it is anything else and that's addressed in
46 many of my comments and in my .810 analysis but the
47 only alternative where they have a difference or a
48 change in the route of the pipe is the one that talks
49 about coming through Dalzell Gorge.

50

1 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. SEPPI: And, you know, that's where
4 the dog race comes through and if anybody has ever gone
5 through Dalzell Gorge, you got to scratch your head to
6 think how could you possibly put a pipe through there
7 but that is one of the alternatives. But it would
8 still then cross the SouthFork of the Kuskokwim and go
9 up into that area.

10

11 MR. COLLINS: Right along the base of
12 the mountain, yeah.

13

14 MR. SEPPI: Yes. And that is where
15 they say they need to be, you know, there's no
16 alternative.....

17

18 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

19

20 MR. SEPPI:that changes that
21 route. There was an alternative called the Cachatna
22 (ph) alternative that went through a whole different
23 area and they made a decision early on, for whatever
24 technical feasibility or cost or whatever, they just
25 refused to analyze that in the final EIS, so that is
26 not part of it and that would have routed it around
27 that area.

28

29 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're running
32 short on time, one more question here.

33

34 MR. THOMAS: That statement will be out
35 in January?

36

37 MR. SEPPI: Yes, out to the public.
38 That's what they're telling us now, and this is a bit
39 fluid but the Corps of Engineers very much wants to get
40 this out the door, and so if not January probably
41 slightly after that.

42

43 MR. THOMAS: Okay. My next question
44 is, BLM has an opinion on it or are they just going
45 over it?

46

47 MR. SEPPI: We comment on it like all
48 the agencies. We comment on its impacts. I do the
49 subsistence impacts analysis, but we're commenting on

50

1 the entire project because all of it is a connected
2 action, although the pipeline only goes across BLM for
3 97 miles but we're not held just to that 97 miles,
4 we're allowed to comment on all of the impacts because
5 NEPA allows -- they're connected actions so NEPA allows
6 us to do that. And it's the same with ANILCA, and the
7 .810 analysis, I'm not just looking at the right-of-
8 way, I'm looking at the entire project.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred.

11

12 MR. ALEXIE: Hi, my name is Fred Alexie
13 from Kaltag. And I've got a concern and I've brought
14 this up many times through many meetings. Is the BLM's
15 way to handle the firefighting season. The let burn
16 attitude. I do not like that, let burn attitude,
17 because of the salmon spawning tributaries and the
18 smoke and dust that go in the air for the elders. I was
19 just wondering, do you guys -- can you comment on that
20 today.

21

22 MR. SEPPI: Well, that's the Alaska
23 Fire Service and so the Anchorage Field Office, unless
24 there's a fire in our field office, we -- you know, we
25 don't dictate whether -- unlimited areas and what's put
26 out or let burn policies on that. That would be a
27 comment to the field manager for sure and possibly to
28 Alaska Fire Service. But the best place to start would
29 be with our field manager.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so
32 much Bruce.

33

34 MR. SEPPI: You bet, thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Zach, what do you
37 suggest.

38

39 MR. STEVENSON: (No microphone)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can, Erin, Tim.

42

43 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
44 Chair, Members of the Council. For the record my name
45 is Erin Julianus, wildlife biologist for the BLM,
46 Central Yukon Field Office. And with me I have Tim
47 Lamarr, the field office manager for the BLM Central
48 Yukon Field Office. And I will note that I know Tim
49 was at our last meeting, he is the authorized officer

50

1 for both the Central Yukon RMP and also the Ambler
2 Road, so I thought dialoguing directly between Tim and
3 the Council would be good today.

4
5 So I think in the interest of time, you
6 know, we have our standard field office report here
7 which you should have received in your supplemental
8 materials. I don't think there's anything, in
9 particular, that I feel the need to go over right here
10 aside from the big, you know, the Ambler Road and the
11 RMP. So certainly if any of you have questions, either
12 of us can answer those, but other than that I think
13 just turning it over to Tim now.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One issue that I
16 would like to bring up in the general BLM discussion is
17 this fall they started construction on another section
18 of the Dalton Highway and Diettrich camp. Those road
19 crews showed up with the intention of hunting
20 extensively there. They're hunting without permits for
21 moose, there's a lot of -- and they continued to hunt
22 after the moose season closed on September 25th. The
23 State oversight people that were there who are supposed
24 to be watching the road, I got trail cams off road and
25 they're out there hunting on Nolan Creek and the
26 Hammond River Roads. I think that, you know, the BLM
27 enforcement officer is going to have to help out these
28 State Troopers because we're not sure if -- our Trooper
29 left, and we're not sure if that Trooper post in
30 Coldfoot's actually going to be there. There needs to
31 be some kind of presence in the latter part of the
32 moose season and continuing up to the first of October
33 because those guys continued to hunt past the season.
34 There was one guy tracking a moose two days after the
35 moose season. He claimed he shot it the day before, I
36 don't even think he had a permit. I don't have
37 enforcement abilities to check to see if he's actually
38 got a moose permit. So there's some bad things
39 starting to happen up there.

40
41 That road crew is going to be back next
42 spring, they're going to continue to do this kind of
43 stuff. The last road crew that showed up there, they
44 brought their fourwheelers, they were driving up the
45 Gold Creek trails, they were going all over the place.
46 I think this -- every time one of these road crews
47 shows up these issues occur but now we don't have any
48 State Trooper enforcement to a large degree.

49
50

1 So I just wanted to bring that issue
2 up. You might want to send the local friendly BLM
3 ranger up that way.

4
5 Tim, go ahead.

6
7 MR. LAMARR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 Yeah, we're aware of those types of issues occurring.
9 I wasn't aware until now about the particular instance
10 you're talking about. We did have our law enforcement
11 ranger out on extended patrols during hunting season.
12 They worked quite a few extra hours. But obviously we
13 didn't catch that one, we did catch some others.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Apparently they
16 seemed to wait until all the enforcement leaves. They
17 think that once the season closes, the enforcement
18 thinks, oh, we can sleep in today, it's like no they
19 think they can hunt for a couple of days after the
20 moose season closes. There was a gut pile off the
21 Nolan Road that no one in Wiseman shot, nobody knows
22 who killed it.

23
24 MR. LAMARR: Uhm.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so there was
27 poaching occurring and so there has to be a presence
28 for a period of time immediately after the moose season
29 closes. I just wanted to bring that up for the Council
30 to understand that as the State's budget is constrained
31 we're going to have to have more Federal enforcement
32 for the regulations that we have. Just a side issue.

33
34 MR. LAMARR: Yeah.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just wanted to bring
37 that out on the table.

38
39 MR. LAMARR: Another aspect of that is
40 we, on the bright side, we were able to fill another
41 law enforcement ranger position within the Fairbanks
42 district of the BLM. It's a shared position between
43 the Central Yukon Field Office and the Eastern Interior
44 Field Office and so that individual just came on board
45 very recently and so he'll be splitting his time
46 working with our ranger up the Dalton as well as
47 Eastern Interior's ranger down in the Eastern Interior
48 Field Office. So, you know, that was a measure that
49 took some time and effort to get the support to do that
50

1 but we recognize that our enforcement resources are
2 stretched super thin and then we know, you know, we did
3 make that a priority to try and get more resources to
4 it and that was one successful gain that we made.

5
6 So hopefully we'll be able to do more.
7 He's already getting connected with law enforcement
8 rangers from other agencies up in the Dalton so we're
9 already establishing those relationships and
10 familiarity and getting them working together with AST
11 and Fish and Wildlife Service. So hopefully we'll do
12 better with this type of enforcement in the future.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, well I'm happy
15 to hear that. I just wanted to highlight the issue that
16 the last week of the moose season and extending past
17 the moose season became.....

18
19 MR. LAMARR: Yeah.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:an issue this
22 year. This just happened, that's why I brought it to
23 the meeting.

24
25 MR. LAMARR: Yeah.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I'm glad to hear
28 that Seth's got some help now.

29
30 MR. LAMARR: Yeah.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mainly we want to
33 know what point in the BLM RMP process, you know, we've
34 had quite a bit of discussion about that at meetings
35 and so forth and so we want an update on that issue.

36
37 MR. LAMARR: Sure. Maybe before we do
38 that I'll mention one more positive highlight for us,
39 we'll introduce Jason Oles, who is an outdoor
40 recreation planner, who was recently hired. We've had
41 some Staffing shortages in a number of programs,
42 including our recreation program and Jason came on in
43 late January, several months ago, and one of Jason's
44 tasks is to oversee and implement the SRP program. So
45 Jason, recently, conducted a series of inspections on
46 the ground, compliance inspections of our hunting
47 guides, our permitted hunting guides with Ranger
48 McMillan. And so we deployed -- that's the aviation
49 skills and I think you said we accessed -- made contact

50

1 with seven of eight active guides.

2

3 MR. OLES: Seven of 10 active guides.

4

5 MR. LAMARR: Permitted guides.

6

7 MR. OLES: We have two guides that
8 didn't operate this year.

9

10 REPORTER: Can you come up to the
11 microphone.

12

13 MR. OLES: Sorry. Jason Oles, Central
14 Yukon recreation planner. And Seth and I were able to
15 either jointly or separately talk to all but two of our
16 permitted SRP hunting guides on the field office and
17 the other two were not operating this year.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, any questions
20 on that.

21

22 Go ahead, Darrel.

23

24 MR. VENT: Just one, I think we
25 requested some kind of list for publications, to report
26 on the RMP or something, during the last meeting.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, he's going to
29 get into that in a minute.

30

31 MR. VENT: He's going to get into that
32 in a minute. All right, just making sure that we're
33 going to get into that and not -- the subsistence users
34 in that area for their qualified subsistence use, that
35 was the same thing, too.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, there was
38 issues with that. So go ahead.

39

40 MR. LAMARR: Okay. So perhaps for the
41 RMP discussion I'd like to invite Chelle (ph) Ethan,
42 our project manager up to the table, if that's okay.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please.

45

46 MR. LAMARR: So, yeah, just to update
47 on the RMP -- if you want to go ahead and introduce
48 yourself.

49

50

1 MS. ETHAN: Certainly. For the record,
2 Mr. Chairman and Council, my name is Chelle Ethan and
3 I'm the project manager for the Resource Management
4 Plan that Tim just introduced.

5
6 MR. LAMARR: So just in a few words,
7 where we are in the process, is we're in the
8 alternative development stage still with the plan. I
9 think at the last, at the spring meeting, I came and
10 spoke and we were in the mixed of a series of public
11 meetings that we were holding. I think we held a total
12 of 13 public meetings at the time on our preliminary
13 alternatives, our preliminary draft alternatives. And
14 so since that time we've been pulling together the
15 input that we received from the public from those
16 meetings as well as a comment period or review period
17 that we had. And also meeting with our cooperating
18 agencies, Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of
19 Alaska, our cooperating agencies, and now the village
20 of Allakaket is now a cooperating agency, a recent
21 cooperating agency and we're glad to have them aboard
22 as well. But prior to their entrance into the process
23 we'd been working with the State and with Fish and
24 Wildlife Service. And then we also held a
25 considerable, hearty briefing with our State Director,
26 our previous State Director, Bud Cribley, who is no
27 longer our State Director, and so based on all of those
28 inputs we've been crafting -- further crafting the
29 alternatives. And so there's a lot of internal work, a
30 lot of consideration of the input that we've gotten and
31 that's really where we are still in the process, is
32 kind of cranking through the nuts and bolts of putting
33 together -- the devil's in the details, as they say,
34 putting together those alternatives.

35
36 One key issue associated with that is
37 the potential to lift or modify PLO-5150 and there's
38 been a lot of discourse on that issue, of course, and
39 we're continuing to pursue reasonable viable options
40 for that. The State of Alaska is very keen on having
41 us lift the PLO because most of the PLO-5150 lands are
42 top filed and so they -- if the public land order is
43 lifted the top filings become State selections. And so
44 they're interested in many of the lands in the corridor
45 and we've been having a lot of back and forth with the
46 State of Alaska to try and get a clear picture of which
47 parts of it that they want, or have the most interest
48 in. So we want to be able to -- we need to be able to
49 address the full range of alternatives in the
50

1 environmental impact statement for the resource
2 management plan, and part of that would be including
3 what they're interested in, in that range.

4
5 At this point we're having.....

6
7 (Teleconference interruption -
8 participant phones not muted)

9
10 MR. LAMARR: I'll try this again.

11
12 (Teleconference interruption -
13 participant phones not muted)

14
15 MR. LAMARR: Can you hear me?

16
17 REPORTER: Yes, it's someone on the
18 phone, go ahead.

19
20 MR. LAMARR: Okay. At this point we're
21 -- the State of Alaska is going through all of their
22 selections in the state to reprioritize before they are
23 willing to give us a solid answer on what they are most
24 interested in us considering.

25
26 That's kind of, in a nutshell, where we
27 are.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What would be your
30 timeframe, I mean the State's going to come up with
31 something and then alternatives are being formulated
32 and.....

33
34 MR. LAMARR: Yeah. We had given them a
35 timeframe of, I think, September, was what we had told
36 them we needed it by, in order for us to stay on our
37 current timeline for the Resource Management Plan and
38 they told us -- we are anticipating somewhere around
39 December or January is when they'll have a product to
40 us. So we're in the process of considering whether to
41 build in a delay in our schedule to accommodate that
42 because, you know, it would kind of make sense to
43 incorporate something meaningful rather than us take a
44 shot at it ourselves based on vague input that we've
45 received from the State thus far.

46
47 So we actually briefed our new acting
48 State Director, Karen Mouritsen last week on that
49 issue, and she was interested in possibly taking up the
50

1 discussion on our behalf with the State, at her level,
2 to kind of move that discussion along, move us along
3 and progress.

4
5 So at this point our current timeline
6 for the RMP, the big nuggets, are we'd be looking at a
7 little over a year from now for a draft. I think we're
8 on trajectory for winter of 2019 for the draft with
9 probably a final record of decision would probably be
10 pushed to, maybe, what, summer of 2020. Why don't you
11 speak to that Chelle.

12
13 MS. ETHAN: That's correct. Yeah, so
14 right now just for clarification, as Tim mentioned, we
15 are still refining the range of alternatives, largely
16 based on what we found out when we were visiting with
17 the communities and a lot of the complexities as Tim
18 mentioned relative to how we handle big decisions, like
19 whether or not to modify PLO-5150. If we stay on
20 schedule, what we need to do, and this is just a little
21 bit of elementary, land use planning, but I hope it
22 helps convey the process. We have to have our range of
23 alternatives blessed off by the Washington office. So
24 we go through a series where we try to refine them
25 internally, make sure that we have a sound range of
26 alternatives, it gets sent off to Washington and they
27 give us, yes, you have a sound range of alternatives
28 that is legally viable. And as Tim mentioned there's a
29 lot of questions that are still on the table relative
30 to everything that we heard when we were visiting with
31 communities. That's what's caused us to go back and
32 rethink considerably. So for many of you that we did
33 visit with, I think it's going to look dramatically
34 different than what you've seen before.

35
36 So once we do have that blessing of the
37 range of alternatives then we jump into the impact
38 analysis, that takes roughly a year, and as Tim
39 mentioned we'd likely be out -- if we stay on schedule,
40 we would likely be out for public comment in 2019 and
41 then be looking at a ROD in summer of 2020. And that,
42 of course, is all predicated on staying on schedule at
43 this time.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

46
47 MS. ETHAN: Do you have questions.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions about

50

1 that. I do appreciate you filling us in on where those
2 blanks are, what you have to wrestle with. That gives
3 me more understanding why there's delays and so forth.

4
5 MR. LAMARR: Yeah. And I would say
6 we're only a couple of months off from our originally
7 slated schedule. I think we were planning a record
8 decision date of spring of 2020 and so we've only been
9 pushed off a couple of months so far but it might get
10 extended if we await more definitive input from the
11 State.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or Washington.

14
15 MR. LAMARR: That too.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any questions on
18 the BLM's RMP process, where they're at right now.
19 That was very enlightening, I really appreciate that.

20
21 MS. ETHAN: Mr. Chair, can I address
22 the question that was raised in the last meeting. We
23 had an email communication from Zach asking us for an
24 annotated bibliography of what we've gotten so far. So
25 we have not responded to that partly because of where
26 we're at in the process. We're still gathering up as
27 much information as we have, and I think as you heard
28 from Suzanne Little earlier, she's suggested and we
29 will be reaching out to this particular body to say,
30 let's compare notes, but we are probably a month or two
31 away from that stage at this time.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
34 questions.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any and
39 -- Tim.

40
41 MR. LAMARR: Would you like an update
42 on a discussion of the Ambler Road project at this
43 time?

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, I would like to
46 go -- okay, the BLM has lands where the road starts and
47 so I would like to know what point in the process you
48 are with that Ambler Road.

49
50

1 MR. LAMARR: Okay. So, yeah, the BLM's
2 role in the Ambler Road project is that, as Mr. Chair
3 pointed out, the origination point of the proposal is
4 on the Dalton Highway, the current origination point is
5 approximately mile post 161 on the Dalton Highway.
6

7 Back in November of 2015, the BLM, as
8 well as the Park Service, the Coast Guard and the Corps
9 of Engineers received an application from AIDEA, the
10 proponent, for a right-of-way and other required
11 authorizations. And so the BLM is required, under
12 FLPMA, to consider issuing a right-of-way grant and so
13 the decisions that the BLM has to make in this process
14 is whether to grant the right-of-way and, if so, under
15 what terms and conditions and where. And so that's
16 actually wording pretty much right out of FLPMA that
17 tells us that's what our job is. And so that's what
18 we're doing.
19

20 There was some back and forth with the
21 proponent in June of last year, of 2016, we found the
22 application to be complete. In other words, they
23 provided us enough information for us to move forward.
24 At that time there was discourse between the BLM and
25 other Federal agencies involved and our State Director
26 at the time felt it appropriate for the BLM to take on
27 the lead agency duties for the environmental impact
28 statement for the project. And our partner agencies,
29 the Corps of Engineers, the Coast Guard, they were okay
30 with that, so we are in the lead road for the Ambler
31 Road Environmental Impact Statement.
32

33 And so right now we're in -- in
34 February 2017 we issued the notice of intent to conduct
35 an environmental impact statement on the project and
36 that started a 90 day public scoping period. And we
37 relatively quickly recognized the need to extend the
38 scoping period. In part, a lot of the discussion
39 centered on trying to accommodate the primary
40 subsistence and traditional use seasons of a lot of the
41 communities involved and with interest in the project
42 and so we didn't want to go have a series of public
43 meetings in the middle of spring and summer, you know,
44 for this project that was obviously of high interest to
45 folks. And so the public scoping period was extended
46 through the end of January of 2018, so this coming
47 January, the end of January, will be the end of the
48 scoping period. And so we are on the verge of kicking
49 off and scheduling a series of public meetings that'll
50

1 probably be in November for that.

2

3 At this point we have about 10 public
4 meetings planned, but we're open to additional venues.

5

6 Assisting the BLM with the EIS, I'll
7 briefly touch on this, that we have a third-party
8 contractor assisting us with the environmental impact
9 statement and that contract was recently awarded and we
10 actually just had a day long meeting with them last
11 Friday to start get moving on some of this stuff. We
12 need to contact the communities and ask if they're
13 willing to have us for public meetings and coordinate
14 when and where and all of that. So we're in the
15 process of gearing that up and some of that will be set
16 up by the third-party contractor, some of it will be
17 me. The project manager on the BLM side for this
18 project is Lori Thorpe and she actually works out of
19 our State office in Anchorage, but I -- my position as
20 the field manager of the Central Yukon Field Office,
21 I'm the authorized officer for the right-of-way. So I
22 probably should have stated that up front.

23

24 So we did some outreach to tribal
25 governments and Native corporations. We sent out like
26 last spring, last April a series, a set of about -- to
27 about 75 different entities from an interest list
28 trying to invite or solicit government-to-government
29 consultation or solicit interest in potential
30 cooperating agency status on the part of the tribal
31 governments and we're kind of in the process of
32 circling back and making some phone calls to try and
33 kind of renew whether there's interest. We haven't
34 received any affirmative responses to that but we're
35 going to -- we need to work the phones and try and get
36 that, you know, get that possibility back in front of
37 folks for consideration.

38

39 At this point the timeline for the EIS
40 is draft in March of 2019 with a final in December of
41 2019.

42

43 And that schedule might change because
44 the Administration has written some new policies on
45 that. There's a Secretarial Order, 3355, folks may
46 have heard about it, maybe not, but the Secretarial
47 Order is mandating a one year timeframe from the
48 issuance of a notice of intent for an environmental
49 impact statement to come out with the final EIS. So by

50

1 the timeline in that Secretarial Order, we're supposed
2 to have a final EIS next February, which is not going
3 to happen, but we're trying to figure out what that
4 Secretarial Order means for this project because we had
5 already published our notice of intent, we already had
6 a timeline for the project before the order was issued.
7 So right now the timeline I just gave you might change
8 and that would be why, if it changes. So I just want
9 to give you a head's up.

10

11 MR. THOMAS: Can I.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

14

15 MR. THOMAS: What's the procedure for
16 this or who comes in and says, hey, we want to put a
17 road there, who requested you to do this?

18

19 MR. LAMARR: So, yeah, the AIDEA is the
20 proponent, and so there is a joint Inter-Agency
21 application they are required to fill out and so they
22 filled out the application and actually it's two
23 binders of material and it's, yeah, a lot of technical
24 engineering information, a lot of maps, a lot of.....

25

26 MR. THOMAS: So it's the State of
27 Alaska that requested this?

28

29 MR. LAMARR: Yes, in this case it's
30 AIDEA, the State Corporation, they're the proponent,
31 yeah.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: What would be the
36 practical amount of time to complete an EIS correctly?

37

38 MR. LAMARR: So we think the timeframe
39 we have is tight, the one that we already have. We do
40 think it's doable and the contractor thinks it's
41 doable, but it's tight. And so like I said we're
42 talking about a year and a half for the draft, yeah,
43 about a year and a half for the draft, from now, and
44 then another nine months later for the final. That's a
45 little bit tight but it might get truncated by the new
46 policy change within the Administration.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got a lot of
49 agenda to go and I really appreciate those updates and
50

1 those timelines, those are important.
2

3 This Council is going to write a letter
4 about the Ambler Road and you'll receive those as those
5 will be some of our comments on subsistence resource
6 uses and so forth.
7

8 MR. LAMARR: And if you have any
9 questions, give me a holler or I think you have my
10 contact information.
11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.
13

14 MR. LAMARR: And our website has
15 contact information for Lori Thorpe, the project
16 manager. And I did bring some copies of the front page
17 of our web page of our E-planning website, I can leave
18 a stack of those if people want, it has like where to
19 comment and who to call and that sort of thing.
20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, I appreciate
22 that.
23

24 MR. LAMARR: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
25 Chair.
26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate you
28 coming here to talk to us and giving us all this
29 information.
30

31 Thank you.
32

33 MR. LAMARR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're going
36 to continue down this agenda. We jumped ahead on BLM,
37 we're going to go back to Kanuti, Vince.
38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Good afternoon, and thank
40 you for the sun coming out.
41

42 (Laughter)
43

44 MR. MATHEWS: You should have received
45 through Zach, a summary report on Kanuti. I don't know
46 if I want to really cover the high points of that, but
47 I what I'd like to ask you is if there's anything
48 specifically you would like the Refuge to make a
49 presentation on at your next meeting, please let us
50

1 know and then obviously it's subject to your
2 timeframes. So that's where that's at.

3
4 So I can go through that or I think you
5 really want to dig into the fisheries summary coming
6 up.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We do want to do
9 that. And so Mike was here yesterday, told us he's
10 going to be moving on, the thought that came to me was
11 who is going to be acting in his place or is that
12 selected -- not selected yet?

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: That's way above my head.
15 And, again, I don't know how soon, how recent he
16 announced that. I think BLM covered a little bit about
17 there's a lot of uncertainty on hiring and that, so
18 we'll just have to wait and see. There should be some
19 direction by your next meeting but that's what I'm
20 assuming.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: But Mike did share with
25 me, and I think you know, in particularly, the
26 remaining Staff are well, you know, informed, and well
27 engaged on Refuge issues. Yes, they do need leadership
28 but it's not going to, you know, stop, they're going to
29 keep moving forward.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's what I
32 was just wondering. So I appreciate the lead out on
33 this, you know, we got these in our packets so I've
34 looked through this already, your report.

35
36 Did the Council see this.

37
38 (Council nods affirmatively)

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. So we
41 appreciate that.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: The last thing on that is
44 it's listed there, the other three Refuges, I do have
45 handouts if you would like them on summaries of Arctic
46 and Yukon Flats. There's different styles. I can give
47 those to Zach but in respect to OSM, any time there's
48 an issue that addresses multiple Refuges there is
49 consultation -- well, that's not the right word --

50

1 well, I'll call it consultation, through Carol, who's
2 here and myself, so there is that involvement on it and
3 then -- so it's not like you do not -- that you have to
4 wonder, well, this issue on caribou or whatever, did
5 Arctic engage or did Flats engage on a moose issue,
6 that is done through the proposal process. But if
7 there is a specific thing, you know, we can do that.
8 So I'll leave that with him.

9
10 And finally for postcards, if you want
11 a postcard that just came out on Refuges, kind of an
12 interesting concept, but I'll leave those with Zach,
13 too, it says, Find Your Way, and I think you guys are
14 right there in the middle but I'm not sure, you'll have
15 to look closely.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: And that's it unless
20 there's any questions, but seriously if these summary
21 reports by Refuges are needing something else, don't
22 hesitate to share or if some kind of editing needs to
23 be done. And, again, if you want a specific topic, you
24 know, at one of your meetings where it's a little bit
25 less jam-packed, please let us know because that's an
26 opportunity to educate both yourself and Refuge Staff
27 of concerns.

28
29 So with that, I'll leave that as is.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Tim.

32
33 MR. GERVAIS: Vince. Myself and
34 probably many other people on the Council would agree
35 that in the sake of continuity and communication and
36 competence that you should be the new Refuge manager.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'll take that as a
41 compliment but we'll just leave it at that.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Whew. But, no, there'll
46 be a process and all that. There's a lot of things
47 going on with all the agencies so I'm sure that
48 there'll be a core concern remaining with one of the
49 purposes of all these Refuges is continuation of
50

1 subsistence uses, that will not -- that will continue,
2 as well as the biological component. So thank you,
3 Tim, but we'll let that play out.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so
8 much, Vince. Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko. Jeremy.

9
10 MR. HAVENER: Good afternoon. Thank
11 you, Mr. Chair and Council members. For the record my
12 name is Jeremy Havener, I am the Refuge subsistence
13 coordinator for Koyukuk, Nowitna and Innoko National
14 Wildlife Refuges. And, I apologize, I don't have a
15 packet for you today but we do plan on that at the next
16 meeting in March to come up with a full Refuge update.

17
18 So for time sake I'm going to be pretty
19 brief on our update and open things up for questions
20 and concerns.

21
22 So starting off I'll talk a little bit
23 about our Staffing updates. And one of the ones that
24 we hear a lot concerns about I'll address first, and
25 that is in McGrath, the position down there. Right now
26 the position is vacant and it is one of our high
27 priority positions, our highest priority position to
28 hire. It was originally supposed to be an RIT but
29 because of the extra duties that we're going to require
30 this position to do down there, including maintenance,
31 visitor services, outreach, education and RIT duties,
32 we've switched it to a Park Ranger position and right
33 now we're -- like Bruce indicated, we're on a hiring
34 freeze and we want to do a local hire there and as soon
35 as we get permission to hire we will be hiring that
36 position there in McGrath as a local hire.

37
38 So another Staff update is our RIT in
39 Huslia that we hired. We hired her back in January,
40 February and her name is Shandara Swatling and she's
41 going to be part-time there in Huslia and we're really
42 excited to have her on board. She seems to be really
43 good with outreach education things and plans on
44 getting out to a lot of the villages and putting on
45 programs and such.

46
47 And we've also hired a new admin
48 officer from Ruby, her name is Marie Cleaver and we're
49 excited to have her on board as well.

50

1 With subsistence, I just recently got
2 back from the Nowitna checkstation and this year we had
3 an interesting year, we had roughly 101 hunters and 43
4 moose were harvested. We saw just a handful of large
5 bulls, so the 50-inch class, 60-inch class and, you
6 know, we saw a lot of 35, 40-inch bulls this year.
7 During the Federal moose hunt, which goes from
8 September 26th through October 1 we -- and this is all
9 preliminary data, we issued six permits and so far
10 we've had one moose harvested and so when I get back
11 I'm going to be trying to track down those harvest
12 reports.

13
14 The 21E winter moose hunt, which goes
15 from February 15th through March 15th in Game
16 Management Unit 21E, we had a total of five permits
17 issued on the FM2104, which is that Piamut Slough area
18 and south. We had five permits issued and four moose
19 harvested, which all those moose were bulls. In the
20 2105, which is the area north of Piamut Slough we had
21 19 permits issued and 8 moose harvested. The
22 composition of that was two bulls harvested and six
23 cows. So for a grand total of 24 permits issued and 12
24 total moose harvested.

25
26 And upcoming information, we've got an
27 AMBCC migratory bird harvest survey we're going to be
28 completing again this year and really rely on the RITs
29 for that and myself, we'll be visiting four villages
30 this year and it's going to be Koyukuk, Huslia, McGrath
31 and Anvik and so we've got a lot of work to do on that
32 yet. We've got to get continuing resolutions put into
33 place and then, of course, complete the surveys before
34 January. So that'll be coming up very soon.

35
36 Other than that with our bio program,
37 we're still kind of finalizing reports and we'll have
38 all that information for you here in the March meeting.

39
40 So I'm going to conclude with that and
41 open it up for questions.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Questions. Don.

44
45 MR. HONEA: Not a question, I guess more
46 so a comment.

47
48 I appreciate you guys being on the Novi
49 there and the late season, you guys are always staffed
50

1 at. I would like to see the RITs, you know, I'm glad
2 that they're being filled, especially in an area of say
3 maybe over in McGrath where they pulled out completely
4 and, you know, there's a loss of job, there's a loss of
5 info from that area. I would give a hand to the RITs
6 that you have now, open invitation to visit our
7 communities. Maybe to -- I'd still like to be able to
8 maybe have like a wolf clinic, something like that.
9 You know we -- there was this one guy that works for
10 TCC, he comes down and he was trying to come down last
11 year on the Novi so that we can try to do a little
12 predator control, him and I, but that didn't happen.
13 But still I'd like to be able to have programs like
14 that open to the public -- I mean open to our
15 communities if possible.

16
17 Thank you, though.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any
20 other questions of Koyukuk, Nowitna.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much.
25 Look forward to those reports in our March meeting.

26
27 MR. HAVENER: Yep, and thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And so
30 we're on Yukon River season overview with Fred Bue and
31 Gerald Maschmann. And the Alaska Department of Fish
32 and Game is after that, I was wondering, it's getting
33 late in the day are they still on the phone.

34
35 Holly.

36
37 MS. CARROLL: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
38 Holly Carroll, summer season manager and I'm going to
39 defer to Fred and Gerald to give our summary for us and
40 just be available for questions.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate
43 that.

44
45 Go ahead, Gerald.

46
47 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm Gerald Maschmann
48 with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm the
49 assistant Federal in-season manager. I assist Fred

50

1 Bue, who everyone knows.

2

3 You're getting two handouts. One is
4 kind of the Federal season overview, it's a summary and
5 then the Alaska Department of Fish and Game also put
6 out their preliminary Yukon River summer season summary
7 and that has a lot of details. So if you want more
8 specific information I'd definitely go to that
9 preliminary season summary that Fish and Game put
10 together.

11

12 I'm just going to summarize quickly for
13 time.

14

15 As most of you know we've had some
16 depressed Yukon River chinook salmon stocks. 2012 and
17 '13 the returns were pretty dismal and in 2014 we
18 managed very conservatively and then the run came in a
19 little better than expected and we ended up exceeding
20 our goals and then similar in 2015 we relaxed
21 subsistence slightly a little more but remained
22 cautious and then we ended up exceeding our goals in
23 2015. And then also in 2016 we, again, entered
24 cautiously but we were optimistic and so we provided
25 even a little more chinook salmon harvest opportunity
26 for subsistence. For 2017 we were, again, we were
27 looking at a chinook salmon forecast for 145,000 to
28 195,000 chinook. During our preseason meetings with
29 fishermen we went over some management options and some
30 strategies with them and we informed them that if it
31 came in on the low end we'd need to do some more
32 subsistence restrictions like we've seen but if things
33 started coming in on the upper end we could relax
34 subsistence and offer more chinook salmon fishing than
35 we've had in the past. And that's essentially what
36 happened this season, is that, the run exceeded our
37 expectations and about midway through the summer season
38 we started to relax subsistence fishing to allow for
39 chinook salmon fishing and for the most part we were
40 able to allow quite a bit of 7.5 inch or smaller mesh
41 gillnet gear and fishwheel operators could keep chinook
42 salmon. So we were pretty confident about midway
43 through that we were going to be able to meet or exceed
44 our goals and so we relaxed subsistence fishing.

45

46 The summer chum salmon runs have been
47 good since '02. There was a lot of work preseason with
48 fishermen to try and figure out how we could harvest
49 some of these abundant summer chum while still

50

1 conserving chinook and there was a lot of work trying
2 to figure out how to -- the best way to do that, to
3 harvest the chinook if there was a surplus. And,
4 again, we were able to allow the 7.5 chinook salmon
5 gear for subsistence starting midway in the season in
6 the Lower Yukon. And as we moved up river, up river
7 districts were restricted even less than the lower
8 because by then we were pretty confident in our run so
9 we basically -- you know in the past we've always
10 marched the restrictions up river but because we were
11 pretty confident, you know, midway through in the Lower
12 Yukon we started to relax the Upper Yukon even sooner.
13 And District 5D didn't have any restrictions this year
14 on chinook salmon restrictions, so that was good.

15
16 When about 65 percent of the chinook
17 run had passed, District 1 commercial chum fishing
18 began with 6 inch gillnets for the rest of the season.
19 We started commercial fishing for chums with dipnets
20 and beach seines. Basically we call it selective gear
21 that we can throw chinook back. But once, you know,
22 two-thirds of the chinook run had passed through
23 District 1 we started to allow them to fish with 6 inch
24 gear to go after the chum and then to take chinook
25 salmon home for subsistence. So in the summer season
26 there was no selling of chinook salmon incidentally
27 caught in the summer chum commercial fishing season.

28
29 District 6 was not managed nearly as
30 intensively as the rest of the Yukon because, you know,
31 genetic sampling was indicating to us that -- basically
32 District 6 is the Tanana and those fish were looking
33 decent so basically subsistence and personal use
34 fishing in District 6 was -- they were placed on their
35 normal windowed schedule of two, 42 hour periods per
36 week with 7.5 inch mesh or less, and that was for the
37 entire season.

38
39 Summer chum, commercial, again no
40 chinook salmon sales were allowed.

41
42 District 2 there's been a decrease in
43 buyer capacity in the Lower Yukon, and so District 2
44 commercial fishing was not as intense as it has been in
45 the past. And I think District 2 commercial fishermen
46 are looking for ways to improve their situation down
47 there.

48
49 In all districts, 1 and 2, commercial
50

1 harvest had 393,000 summer chum, it was the second
2 highest in 25 years. 135,000 summer chum were
3 harvested using the dipnet and beach seines and other
4 selective gear, which was about a third of the total.
5 4,600 chinook were caught and released -- estimated to
6 be caught and released. 4,600 chinook were estimated
7 to have been caught and released in the Lower Yukon
8 summer chum commercial fishery. Again, towards the end
9 of the season, 5,000 chinook were caught incidentally
10 with gillnets and that -- those were taken home for
11 subsistence in the Lower Yukon. Overall over 3 million
12 summer chum passed the Pilot Station sonar in 2017,
13 which was a near record return for those.

14
15 Unless Holly has something she'd like
16 to add I'd like to go ahead and move on to the fall
17 season. So, Holly, do you have anything more you want
18 to add?

19
20 MS. CARROLL: No, thanks for that
21 summary Gerald.

22
23 MR. MASCHMANN: Okay.

24
25 MS. CARROLL: I'll just standby for
26 questions at the end.

27
28 MR. MASCHMANN: All right. For the
29 fall season, the fall chum outlook was for an above
30 average run, however, based on the excellent
31 performance of the summer chum run the fall chum run
32 projection was right at the beginning of the season,
33 brought up to be greater than 1.1 million. We entered
34 the season with no concerns for subsistence and we
35 managed commercially -- we would manage the commercial
36 season with the consideration for subsistence and
37 escapement goals.

38
39 The Lower Yukon subsistence was
40 immediately relaxed to seven days a week with 7.5 inch
41 or smaller mesh gillnets. Of course that would be
42 closed around commercial openings.

43
44 The Middle Yukon subsistence was
45 relaxed to five days per week and later to seven days
46 per week with 7.5 inch or smaller mesh gillnets.
47 Fishermen reports indicated excellent subsistence
48 harvest with high quality fish.

49
50

1 The only -- I guess the only issue for
2 the fall season is that the fishing branch weir on the
3 Upper Porcupine in Canada has not been producing very
4 well in recent years so subsistence fishing in the
5 Porcupine River was closed three days a week for a few
6 weeks in the season when we anticipated fish to get up
7 there. At this time it looks like it's probably made
8 its goal from what we can tell.

9
10 Overall the commercial harvest of
11 467,000 fall chum, it was a near record. And the
12 commercial harvest of 130,000 coho was also well above
13 average.

14
15 The fall assessment is still ongoing in
16 places, they're still doing surveys on the Delta
17 Clearwater so we'll be getting more information this
18 fall. But 1.8 million fall chum passed the Pilot
19 Station sonar which is a near record passage estimate.
20 166,000 coho salmon passed the Pilot Station, which was
21 near the average. Both the Chandalar and Border
22 passage at Eagle were well above and exceeded their
23 goals. Fish are just starting to arrive on the
24 spawning grounds near Big Delta on the Tanana River
25 with peak counts expected around the end of October,
26 early November as well as coho will be arriving on the
27 Delta Clearwater.

28
29 So that's essentially the end of my
30 report and I think Jeff Estensen with the Alaska
31 Department of Fish and Game has a couple of comments on
32 the fall season he'd like to bring up.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jeff.

35
36 MR. ESTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 For the record, Jeff Estensen, Alaska Department of
38 Fish and Game, fall season manager.

39
40 Just a couple of notes, points of
41 interest for members of the Council.

42
43 This year, particularly from folks,
44 fishermen, residents of the middle river around the
45 Kaltag area and Galena and then also from up river
46 mentioned to me on several occasions, that this year,
47 they actually did not go out and fish for fall chum, or
48 didn't feel that they needed to get the fall chum
49 because they were able to get chinook that they needed.

50

1 I heard that a little bit two years ago, but this year
2 definitely heard it a lot more.

3
4 In terms of subsistence fishing, it'll
5 be interesting to hear what the folks at the Eastern
6 Interior RAC say a couple weeks from now, but I do know
7 that there are fishermen that -- you know, the dog
8 mushers that have been looking to get food for their
9 dogs, this year has been kind of unusual for them
10 because they're looking to rack their fish right now
11 and we've been having a warm fall and they may be
12 having some issues with getting that done. So just
13 something to keep in mind and it'll be interesting to
14 hear what they say at the Eastern Interior RAC.

15
16 And then also, finally, just want to
17 say that it was good to hear the comments, particularly
18 during the Fisheries Resource Monitoring about coho.
19 Just to let you know with the Department and the fall
20 season, that coho research continues to be one of our
21 priorities. And, you know, they have been more and
22 more harvested in the commercial fisheries but they're
23 also important subsistence fish, too, as well. And
24 I've been yearly, or annually reminded of that by
25 people, especially in the middle river, and then also
26 evidenced by one of the proposals that we talked about
27 earlier, this morning, dealing with coho salmon and
28 drifting in 4B and C. So I do -- was -- did like to
29 hear those comments though.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that.
34 Any questions.

35
36 Darrel.

37
38 MR. VENT: I just want to get some
39 information here. You have commercial fishing in
40 there, usually what are they fishing for, is it for
41 females with the eggs, the males or are they fishing
42 for all of them or how are they operating this?

43
44 MR. MASCHMANN: For which season, for
45 summer chum season or the fall chum? Summer chum in
46 the Lower Yukon, they're fishing for their fillets, I
47 mean they're vacuum packing fillets and sending them
48 out. I know that there is a fishery in Kaltag that is
49 a roe fishery and so they're fishing for roe in Kaltag.

50

1 MR. VENT: Okay. I just wanted to ask
2 that question so, you know, just so that we know what
3 -- if there's a percentage that they're just not using
4 and what are they doing, is there -- what are they
5 doing with the percentage that they're not using?
6

7 MS. CARROLL: Mr. Chair, if I may.
8 This is Holly Carroll, season summer manager.
9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead,
11 Holly.
12

13 MS. CARROLL: So I just wanted to
14 followup on Gerald's response to you, sir. In the
15 upper river in the Kaltag summer chum commercial
16 fishery there's actually a market for the roe as well
17 as the flesh so whenever possible the flesh was also
18 sold and there's even a market for loins, which is the
19 part of the flesh for the upper part of the body. So
20 the buyer did buy a lot of females but when possible
21 was also selling the flesh.
22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Darrel.
24

25 MR. VENT: Yeah, I also know that, you
26 know, there's not only the chum salmon -- the summer
27 chum salmon being caught there there's also whitefish,
28 there's some reds, I think it's called. There's other
29 fish that's involved in there. I just wondered, you
30 know, it's like considered bycatch, I'm just wondering
31 if they're utilizing all the fish that they're
32 catching, that's all I'm wondering about?
33

34 MS. CARROLL: Mr. Chair, if I may
35 again, this is Holly Carroll, summer season manager.
36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.
38

39 MS. CARROLL: As far as I know, Darrel,
40 they are using their bycatch. The fishery is run as a
41 manned fishwheel, so they must man their wheels while
42 they're in operation, they must release any fish alive
43 that they don't plan to sell and all king salmon must
44 be released alive. If they were to get whitefish or
45 things like that, they could certainly retain those for
46 their subsistence use and they just make note of them
47 on their slips that they have to turn in. And what we
48 find in that area is that they do get very little
49 bycatch. Very little other species being intercepted
50

1 in that fishery and then kept for subsistence or
2 personal use.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jeff.

5
6 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, members
7 of the Council. We do have a commercial fishery that
8 occurs in District 6 as well and it's pretty intense
9 during the fall. Those fishermen are actually catching
10 other species as well and they do record those on the
11 fish tickets and that's something that we do keep track
12 of. And in talking with those fishermen as well, those
13 fish are definitely used for personal use.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Fred --
16 oh, Fred, over here.

17
18 MR. ALEXIE: Hi. My name is Fred
19 Alexie from Kaltag. I want to say about the fishing
20 there for the summer chums in Kaltag. The fishermen
21 down there that fish -- the commercial fishermen, they
22 hire a bunch of people to man their wheel. They're
23 kind of forced to, to make sure you don't catch no
24 cohos. But in Kaltag, very, very seldom do you catch a
25 coho. The coho don't run on that side that's going
26 clear to up river, they run on the other side, where we
27 fish. Where we fish for them with driftnets. And
28 during that time -- during that run, during the summer
29 chum run, whitefish and other species of fish hardly --
30 you very seldom catch, if you're even catching little
31 whitefish they're little whitefish. And, you know, a
32 lot of times the fishermen there they just put the
33 chutes right up there wherever they come out of the
34 wheel and let the fish slide out but it don't hurt the
35 fish, you know, but any rate there's no wanton waste
36 there. And like Holly was saying, you know, the buyer,
37 fleshes the fish, I don't know how many van loads they
38 brought out this summer, but apparently he did really
39 good and I wouldn't say, you know, even though he told
40 me but I don't need to make that record.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

43
44 MR. ALEXIE: Okay, thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was happy that,
47 you know, chinook were not allowed to be sold this
48 summer because that would exacerbate this chinook
49 conservation cohesion through up the river because
50

1 everybody was knuckled down on conservation. So I'm
2 happy about the run we had this year on chinook, I
3 don't know that we're out of the woods. The Kuskokwim
4 came in weak. Nushagak was weak. So many YK stocks are
5 not completely performing well. But I am real, again,
6 real happy with State and Federal management this year.

7
8 I would like, maybe in the spring, get
9 more detail in the quality or the sex demographics of
10 the Eagle passage of chinook into Canada, I would like
11 to see more of that data at a later date but right now.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, Ray.

16
17 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I notice the
18 escapement into Canada is way up but what I'm wondering
19 is how much of that actually ends up spawning. Do you
20 get data on the escapement in Canada at all and how
21 much is utilized. I know they have some commercial
22 even over there, I think. Because I think historically
23 about half of the kings in the river came out of
24 Canada, did they not, so it's important to see if those
25 are actually spawning up there and what they'll
26 contribute in the future.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Gerald.

29
30 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you. Through the
31 Chair. You know as a rule of thumb we've historically
32 used the 50 percent Canadian with the genetics at Pilot
33 Station, it's looking more like 40 to 50 at least
34 recently. As far as commercial fishing in Canada for
35 chinook they haven't done that in years. There are --
36 it's been some time in the making but there's more and
37 more escapement projects in Canada and we can, again,
38 probably share that with you this winter on what they
39 saw. And as far as their subsistence use, they don't
40 call it subsistence, they've got a First Nation
41 fishery, they essentially get first crack at
42 subsistence fish and they've been fairly conservation
43 minded for 10 or 15 years now and I would say maybe the
44 Canadian average harvest is, you know, five to 10,000,
45 that's kind of what we're thinking when we're trying to
46 get fish past Eagle. But it's up to them, they've been
47 more conservation minded. Once the fish cross the
48 border, the Canadians, they manage it how they feel how
49 they want to manage it. So it just depends on what the
50

1 First Nations, as a group, decide how many they want to
2 harvest based on the Eagle sonar.

3
4 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I understand that.
5 But what I was wondering what the actual escapement and
6 how they're monitoring that and do they provide you
7 with that information so you get some idea.

8
9 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair.
10 They have several weirs, they've got some sonars on
11 some of the spawning streams and so that gives us an
12 idea. They're -- I would say, maybe a little newer to
13 the escapement project realm and so we don't have as
14 many years of data to look at like we do with, you
15 know, the Andreafsky, the Gisasa and Pilot Station and
16 some of our projects. So how to look at those projects
17 as managers and historical run sizes, we're not as
18 confident in that yet. We just, again, we need more
19 years with these projects before we can really say but
20 it does look good, I mean from what we've seen at Eagle
21 and fishermen reports and the reports the Canadians
22 have given us, everything looks good for chinook and
23 fall chum salmon going into Canada.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Should have been
26 good escapement this year for sure.

27
28 So thank you very much, appreciate
29 that.

30
31 Fred.

32
33 MR. BUE: I didn't mean to kick Gerald
34 out of the way. Fred Bue with Fish and Wildlife.

35
36 Earlier in the meeting Ms. Pelkola
37 asked about the regulation changes and I just brought
38 some copies for you, there are six ACRs for the Board
39 of Fish work session next week. These are ACRs and the
40 Board will decide which ones of those requests qualify
41 to be taken up later this winter. But there are six
42 for the Yukon. And I apologize, my brain focuses on
43 the Yukon, but there are five also for the Kuskokwim.
44 I didn't include those in here, but I do have the
45 titles to those. This Council will not have an
46 opportunity to meet after the Board does, but you all
47 have State ACs and ability to comment later and so I
48 hope you'll watch for that.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will.

2
3 MR. BUE: And I can pass this out.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we will. The
6 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee is going to have a
7 conference call on the 23rd of October so that's --
8 we're trying to get that call, we don't have funding
9 for a fall meeting, so we'll probably look at those.
10 So if you'd pass those out that'll be great.

11
12 So, all right, I think that kind of
13 covers the fishery. Any more comments on the -- do we
14 have any Kuskokwim post season stuff or are we not
15 dealing with that?

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we all know the
20 Kuskokwim was not that good.

21
22 So we're down to National Park Service.

23
24 MR. STEVENSON: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

27
28 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. I
29 believe we also had -- we've had Holly Carroll address
30 ADF&G, but I believe we also had Jill Klein to provide
31 the salmon planing update, if she's on the call.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I was just
34 focused on the -- are you there Jill?

35
36 MS. KLEIN: I am on the line but I'm --
37 I mean I could comment after the Park Service as well,
38 just for my schedule. Can you hear me?

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're a little bit
41 weak, could you say that once again.

42
43 MS. KLEIN: Oh, I was saying I could go
44 now or I could also wait and go after the Park Service.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll take
47 you after the Park Service, the Park Service is here.

48
49 MS. KLEIN: Okay, thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead. Greg.

2
3 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair, it's good to
4 be here with the group again. I'm Greg Dudgeon the
5 Superintendent for Gates of the Arctic National Park
6 and Preserve and with me today is Jeff Rasic, Chief of
7 Integrated Resources for the Park and Marcy Okada,
8 who's our subsistence specialist for the Park and she
9 will address you first.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Marcy.

12
13 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. Council
14 members. My name is Marcy Okada and I'm the
15 subsistence coordinator. And what went around was four
16 documents and I think we're going to just skip the
17 first two for the interest of time.

18
19 MR. ALEXIE: Could you move that mic
20 closer to you.

21
22 MS. OKADA: So the first two documents,
23 which are these two, I think with the interest of time
24 we're just going to skip it and you can read it on your
25 own time and then we're going to focus on the Ambler
26 Mining District Road and there's a newsletter, the
27 third document, which we'll go over.

28
29 MR. RASIC: I'm Jeff Rasic for the
30 record. I can provide a brief status report on the
31 Ambler Road. You heard about the project from the BLM
32 and over the years. I won't dwell on the details but I
33 would highlight that the Park Service is alongside the
34 BLM EIS process, is undertaking our own permitting at
35 the end of the process, we're on roughly the same
36 timeline as the BLM. The Park Service will issue its
37 own permit for a right-of-way, roughly 20 miles of the
38 200 mile proposed road. Unlike the BLM, ANILCA
39 dictates that the Park Service must issue this permit.
40 What our task then is is to select the route with the
41 least amount of impact and the most benefits and to set
42 terms and conditions that also do the same thing that
43 minimize impacts. And, of course, we're thinking about
44 impacts to subsistence resources and subsistence
45 opportunities, clean water and a long list of other
46 issues.

47
48 Right now a major emphasis of our
49 process is on tribal consultation, government-to-
50

1 government consultation. We've reached out to more
2 than 60 entities across Northern and Western Alaska.
3 It's a broad net but we did that purposely. We think
4 this road could potentially have wide ranging impacts
5 through resources like caribou, migratory species that
6 would cross the path of this road and also cross the
7 paths of people's backyards far from the project area.
8 So we've gotten positive responses and engagement from
9 communities as far away as Unalakleet, Point Hope,
10 Nuiqsut, Wainwright and so forth. And then, of course,
11 there's keen interest in the area immediately around
12 the proposed road, some of the communities that you
13 represent in here. Greg, and other project members
14 visited Allakaket. In the last few months we've been
15 to Point Hope. I spoke on the phone this morning to the
16 Hughes Community -- the Hughes Tribal Council and
17 yesterday to Noatak. So there's pretty keen interest
18 here. But many of those groups have said this is a
19 decision for people closer to the project area to make
20 and they're ready to defer to them. Others, even
21 though they're far from the project area want to be
22 heavily involved. So that's an ongoing process and we
23 hope to keep soliciting input and folding that input
24 into our decisionmaking.

25
26 We also have a public comment period
27 that's open right now. It began October 1st and it's
28 set to run through January 15th, 2018. That's an
29 opening for the general public to comment, a separate
30 line of input outside of the tribal government-to-
31 government consultation. And we have a web page, it's
32 on the handout that we've provided, a web page link.
33 We're also accepting comments, written comments and
34 email comments, any channel people wish to communicate
35 with us, we will entertain those comments.

36
37 I would just mention, too, that along
38 -- this is a project that's been underway for several
39 years. In many senses the project applicant, AIDEA,
40 Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority has
41 been -- and even before that the Alaska Department of
42 Transportation has been addressing aspects of the
43 project and planning and conducting background surveys.
44 We've undertaken our own set of background studies,
45 including impacts to subsistence, economies and a
46 variety of subsistence resources, including caribou.
47 Those are reports, to a large degree, that are
48 available to the public, that are on record and
49 available to the public, people can make up their own
50

1 minds about those impacts, or potential impacts and
2 fold that information into their comments if they wish.
3 Other studies are yet to be completed.
4

5 And in contrast to the EIS that the BLM
6 will produce, the Park Service is creating another
7 document called an environmental and economic analysis,
8 an EEA, something similar to an EIS, where we explain
9 impacts and options and explain our decisionmaking on
10 those two key issues, again, the route and the terms
11 and conditions for use of that route. The applicants
12 proposed a 50 year right-of-way. They've proposed a
13 single route from the Dalton Highway to the Ambler
14 Mining District with one minor variation through Park
15 Service lands, but it's essentially one basic route
16 with two minor variants and they've described
17 exclusively industrial use so no public access is what
18 they've proposed. It's a bit of a grey area what that
19 means for say commercial supplies of materials or fuel
20 to communities near the project area.
21

22 It's a complex project and we continue
23 to try to get to the bottom of these various issues and
24 solicit public input. So it's a great opportunity for
25 us to share information here and we welcome input from
26 the Commission.
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any comments on Park
29 Service's process.
30

31 Go ahead, Fred.
32

33 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, my name is Fred
34 Alexie from Kaltag. You know, I kind of didn't like
35 what you said about comments from, you know, far away
36 or close to it, hey, comments is comments, regardless
37 if they're close or thousand miles away, you know, a
38 comment is a comment and it's a matter of public that
39 those comments are made. So, you know, I wouldn't --
40 you know, disregard what you said, you know, about
41 comments.
42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.
44

45 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Can you briefly explain when the Gates of the Arctic
47 was created and there was -- at that time they noted
48 that this Ambler Mining District was in existence, is
49 that -- with the creation of the Gates of the Arctic,
50

1 are you obligated, no matter what, to permit this road
2 and how does, like the -- what if you find detrimental
3 effect to the wildlife movement, how does that affect
4 your ability to give a go ahead for your section of the
5 road?

6
7 MR. DUDGEON: Through the Chair.
8 Again, this is Greg Dudgeon, Superintendent of Gates of
9 the Arctic. A really good question, questions, and
10 ones that we often get in the communities.

11
12 It's true, when Congress established
13 Gates of the Arctic through the Alaska Lands Act of
14 1980, in Section .204 of ANILCA essentially the Act
15 that created the Park also allowed for, eventually, a
16 road, and the National Park Service was not, in that
17 section of the law, given the opportunity to say no, we
18 were just given the opportunity to say where and the
19 terms and conditions for how it would be used. And,
20 Jeff, I think, very articulately described the scenario
21 we're in, I just wanted to add that the two routes, the
22 two potential routes across the roughly 20 mile section
23 of the Park, which you can see on the small maps on the
24 back of the newsletter handout that you just received,
25 those were actually put on the -- across the maps, if
26 you will, by the Alaska Department of Transportation
27 back in 2011 when they initially reached out to the
28 Park in 2010. While we knew that this was part of the
29 Legislation for the Park, we had no idea that the
30 potential route at that time was being discussed by
31 anyone. And so I just very quickly had to think of a
32 response for DOT as they were asking about the
33 application process and I asked them to consider, as
34 they looked at putting lines across the map for three
35 things:

36
37 One, that would take subsistence users
38 and subsistence resources into account, to avoid large
39 water bodies, and then try to use -- give us an option
40 that was viable but would use as little of the Park as
41 possible. And you see the two potential routes. They
42 put two lines on the map, one that very much configured
43 with what I asked and the other, looking at the
44 topography and the other matters that are relevant to
45 road building, and those are the two routes, the two
46 potential routes I should say, that we are considering
47 in this EEA that Jeff just described.

48
49 And so the comment that Fred made about
50

1 comments, no matter where they come are important, we
2 couldn't agree more. And so we are very much looking
3 for any kind of information, any kind of perspective,
4 you, your neighbors, people across the state and people
5 outside of the state of Alaska can help contribute to
6 our information base so that when we make that ultimate
7 recommendation to the Secretary of Interior and the
8 Secretary of Transportation, again, we are taking into
9 account the very best information we can for which
10 route and what are the terms and conditions for that 50
11 years of use.

12
13 I hope I answered your question, that
14 was a lot of information, but I wanted to provide
15 context as well as an answer.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

18
19 MR. GERVAIS: So after you evaluate it
20 and you say this is going to be the route, then it's
21 kind of a done deal or are you actually got to get a
22 bill passed through Congress that says.....

23
24 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair. So.....

25
26 MR. GERVAIS:this part of the
27 road can.....

28
29 MR. DUDGEON:what ANILCA requires
30 the National Park Service to do essentially is to make
31 a recommendation to the Secretaries of Interior and
32 Transportation, they ultimately make the decision.

33
34 MR. VENT: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel, and then
37 Fred.

38
39 MR. VENT: Yeah, just some things that
40 I mentioned before, you know, when they proposed the
41 road going up to Prudhoe Bay, they told us, oh, yeah,
42 the caribou ain't going to be affected, anything, you
43 know, so those promises were made but when it came down
44 to it we lost the caribou on that. That was a big
45 deal. That was our subsistence use.

46
47 Now the thing is, how -- if you make a
48 decision, how are you going to be able to take it back
49 and say, okay, we got to fix this. There's got to be
50

1 something done if you -- if you make a decision,
2 there's got to be something done in order for
3 subsistence to be a priority in there. I see that it's
4 going to affect a lot of our area, that's a big area
5 there, that's really of critical concern. That's why
6 we were trying to form those areas of critical concern,
7 to let you know what areas that -- if you're going to
8 cross those areas, those are areas that people utilize,
9 also the fish, spawning grounds, everything that's
10 involved in there. And I'm really worried about what's
11 going to happen, how are people going to survive in 20
12 years from now, what's going to happen?

13

14 Thanks.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred.

17

18 MR. ALEXIE: Hi, yeah, I'm looking at
19 that southern route, who proposed that, you guys
20 propose that or did the mining industry said, hey, this
21 is where we want to go, this is what we're going to do,
22 I mean I don't like that attitude, you know, hey -- and
23 I could see if there was stuff along the whole area
24 where you could come around it, like -- like the way
25 this picture's drawn, but to come off that northern
26 route and just go right to the source rather than going
27 through that much land, you know, I'm just opposed to
28 that type of damage done to the land.

29

30 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair. Again, just
31 to be clear that it was initially or originally the
32 Department of Transportation, the State of Alaska
33 Department of Transportation that identified these two
34 potential routes across the Park.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The State drew these
37 routes, they had two routes, this one or this one, take
38 your pick, that's what they told the Park Service.

39

40 MR. ALEXIE: Uh-huh.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You could tell them
43 to go a different way but those are the two routes that
44 are under viable consideration.

45

46 Pollock.

47

48 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 Pollock Simon, Sr., from Allakaket.

50

1 My comments about road development will
2 always be the same. We didn't have too good experience
3 with the oil pipeline Haul Road. We learned from that
4 road project that the road, with the traffic on the
5 road would disrupt the caribou migration route. So
6 since the road was put in to the north, we didn't have
7 caribou come around our village anymore. So I know too
8 well what the road will do to caribou migration routes.
9 So my comments will always be the same, oppose the
10 road.

11
12 Since the beginnings of the discussion,
13 the Ambler Road, for seven years now, we had meetings
14 in different communities in the Kobuk River
15 communities, and all the people oppose the road, not
16 one person says they're for the road. So today I'll
17 stand and say I'm opposed to the road.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. I
22 think the Council's -- we're writing a letter in
23 regards to the Ambler Road. Council members have made
24 lots of comments here. The Gates of the Arctic
25 Subsistence Resource Commission is going to delve
26 deeply into this issue also. The SRC has shown great
27 concerns about the road. There's many members on the
28 Subsistence Resource Commission that are concerned
29 about the impacts to subsistence resources. So this --
30 there's opportunity to get comments in and so I do have
31 grave concerns about this route and what this will
32 actually do. There's got to be alternates considered
33 that do not have the road. Alternates would be a
34 railroad or barging the mineral down the Kobuk River to
35 Hotham Inlet to Kobuk Lake and back out to the ocean.
36 There's other alternates that are not being talked
37 about. And those alternates should be part of the
38 process. Those were just skimmed over by the State of
39 Alaska, those need to be brought back into the process
40 under the environmental EIS process. They have to --
41 those have to be considered. Those have to be part of
42 the alternatives. And so I feel that we should be
43 pushing for that.

44
45 Go ahead, Zach.

46
47 MR. STEVENSON: Briefly, through the
48 Chair. We had requested, through Park Service, I know
49 given the East Coast/West Coast -- East Coast/Alaska
50

1 time difference, that Dr. Annette Watson is likely
2 unavailable at this hour, but the Park Service was very
3 accommodating as well in getting us some time with Dr.
4 Watson to provide an update.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. You want to
7 give that, Marcy.

8
9 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. I just quickly
10 want to followup what Jeff had shared on tribal
11 consultation that we've done with many of the
12 communities. The following communities in the Western
13 Interior that have shown interest in consultation or
14 periodic updates are Allakaket, there was an in-person
15 meeting on May 11th of this year. Alatna, they are
16 interested in consultation. Evansville is interested
17 in consultation. Hughes is interested in consultation.
18 Huslia is as well. Nulato is interested in
19 consultation. With Kaltag, we still need to confirm
20 whether they would be interested in consultation. And
21 Koyukuk and Galena are just interested in periodic
22 updates. Both Jeff and Greg have met with Doyon, on
23 May 9th of this year for consultation. Tanana Chiefs
24 is interested in periodic updates. And in regards to
25 Tim Gervais question about NANA, we have not yet met
26 with NANA in regards to consultation.

27
28 MR. DUDGEON: But I will add to that
29 that I was in Kotzebue three weeks ago and met with the
30 traditional tribal government's planner and then Jeff
31 and I were in Point Hope about a week or two prior to
32 that so we have been out on the coast as well.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Doyon?

35
36 MS. OKADA: So Doyon, we are required
37 to meet, not only with tribal governments, but also
38 with ANCSA Corporations to some -- you know, not in the
39 same form of consultation but it is considered
40 consultation with the corporations.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

43
44 Go ahead, Dennis.

45
46 MR. THOMAS: I see where people want
47 progress but by the same token this road is going to
48 open up a big bag of worms for everybody that lives out
49 there and anybody that has anything to do with the area
50

1 because that road is not going to just open up to a
2 mine, pretty soon you're going to have a guy have a
3 hunting camp here and a hunting camp there and you're
4 going to have some end of the roader living there and
5 another end of the roader living over there, sometimes
6 these aren't the nicest people to have around anywhere
7 you live at. So I would hope that as the National Park
8 Service, that you guys are really taking a close look
9 at it and make sure that the people are protected that
10 live there. And I don't see it happening, you know, I
11 really don't. I think you guys -- not you guys, you've
12 just been authorized to do such and such, but somewhere
13 along the lines somebody at the State of Alaska has
14 really slipped up because they've hit an area that is
15 really set up for subsistence living. Now, where I'm
16 at in the Kuskokwim we've got the river and stuff, you
17 know, sure there's still a lot of subsistence living
18 there also, you know, but you're looking at 250 miles
19 of road there, plus all the other stuff that comes in
20 with it, you got the caribou going through there and
21 you got the fish coming up the river and how many
22 bridges are on that thing, what, 10 or 15, 20 bridges
23 something like that, this is really going to tear this
24 place up.

25
26 So I would hope that you guys take a
27 close look at it and really get out and talk to the
28 people and not just say, well, if you want to talk with
29 us -- no, you get out there and you talk to them, you
30 take it upon yourself to do so as responsibility to the
31 people that live out there. We are Alaskan residents
32 also. Just because we live there doesn't mean we don't
33 have anything to say or we don't have the right to say
34 what we think, you know, I don't believe we're all tree
35 huggers by any means with the information, you know,
36 we're not those guys that are running whale boats and
37 all this kind of stuff, you know, we just live there,
38 this is our life and we don't like it changed in a lot
39 of ways.

40
41 Enough.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel.

44
45 MR. VENT: Yeah, Jack, I think that,
46 you know, they're talking about consultation here. We
47 on the Board here, we have people that are going to be
48 affected by this, should we have some consultation with
49 the Park Service too?

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're consulting
2 right now, that's what we're doing.

3
4 MR. THOMAS: You have to talk to the
5 people.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Park
8 Service.....

9
10 MR. THOMAS: Take a boat, go down the
11 river and talk to everybody you see on the river, I
12 don't care, grab them all and talk to them.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Zach.

15
16 MR. STEVENSON: For clarification,
17 through the Chair. Darrel, were you suggesting that
18 Council members could request consultation with their
19 tribes, I was just unclear what you meant by that
20 point.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 MR. VENT: Yeah.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I thought you
27 were talking about the Council.

28
29 MR. VENT: No.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see. Well,
32 they were naming off all the various -- practically
33 every community in our region.

34
35 MR. RASIC: Through the Chair, I can
36 address that just briefly. Formal government-to-
37 government consultation happens with tribal entities so
38 you have a pathway through your village corporation and
39 regional corporation. We're also undertaking
40 consultation with a small C and, you know, the normal
41 sense of the word by visiting and presenting
42 information at bodies like this, through our SRC,
43 through public meetings in the same communities, by --
44 you know, by every means that we can. This is -- I
45 have to say, it's one of the biggest, if not the
46 biggest Park priority for the past few years, so we're
47 taking it very seriously. We know the effects of this
48 road, the decisions we're making today, the input we're
49 receiving today will affect this region forever. So we

50

1 take this as seriously as we've taken anything in our
2 careers I would say. And I think I can speak for Greg
3 on this too.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. It's a
6 quarter after 5:00.

7
8 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. And we do have
9 Dr. Annette Watson on line.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is she on line?

12
13 MS. OKADA: And this.....

14
15 DR. WATSON: Yes.

16
17 MS. OKADA:handout goes along
18 with her presentation.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right,
21 Annette, go right ahead.

22
23 DR. WATSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
24 project is called Ethnographic Overview and Assessment
25 of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, and
26 really it's looking at land use by Koyukon and Inupiaq
27 communities living in the Western Interior as well as
28 Northwestern regions. The villages of
29 Evansville/Bettles, Alatna, Allakaket, Hughes, Huslia
30 and up on the Kobuk River, Kobuk, Shungnak and Ambler.
31 And you probably have in front of you a couple of maps
32 that show the overall all resources, all communities,
33 lifetime use of this landscape.

34
35 I'll just summarize a little bit about
36 how I made these maps and designed these maps. They
37 were designed in consultation with the tribes, as far
38 as how they wanted to depict subsistence activities.
39 One of the key things that folks wanted to have was to
40 show a lifetime use area because human use of this
41 landscape goes back 10,000 years, having a very large
42 temporal understanding of how people used a variable
43 ecosystem, would be very important to people, and so
44 the project as a whole looks back at about 8,000 years
45 of history, especially the boundary between the Kobuk
46 and Koyukuk River people. A more detailed narrative of
47 land use is achieved over the last 200 years, and then
48 there's a series of maps that examine the last 35 years
49 of subsistence use in the region.

50

1 And the insights, I'm just going to
2 summarize some of the insights on the whole project.
3 There's over 200 maps at this point that was made
4 looking at very individualized species, all of the
5 spacial database. We're just cleaning some things up
6 and making sure some of these layers are anonymous and
7 so we will be able to distribute these data layers to
8 all agencies and all tribes that would like to have a
9 copy of it.

10
11 The conclusions include a number of
12 things that are probably not a surprise to you
13 experienced members of the Board, but it is a way to
14 document subsistence use and changes over time and how
15 subsistence ways of life persist in the region.

16
17 One of the conclusions that changes in
18 places that might seem far away have very significant
19 effects within the study area. A couple of the other
20 things that we talk about in the study is that
21 subsistence as a way of life have persisted through
22 time and is very sensitive in response to both the cash
23 economy and other changes in the social system, as well
24 as changes in the ecosystem and a number of climate
25 change induced types of changes in subsistence use are
26 also documented in the study. And these maps show
27 reactions to these changes. They are not any kind of
28 evidence of a decrease in the want of people to do
29 subsistence in the region.

30
31 Specific to the Western Interior, one
32 of the things I found was about, of course, moose
33 hunting. Moose have become a very key species for
34 subsistence in the subsistence realm of the Koyukuk
35 River villages. It is important -- it is an important
36 resource for caloric intake for all those villages, in
37 part, because of the changes in other species abundance
38 and abilities to access those species for subsistence.

39
40 The cultural research shows that
41 adoption of transportation technologies by each of the
42 tribes is merely a strategy of adaptation in the face
43 of a more centralized village life. It doesn't impact
44 the ethical or cultural or spiritual connections that
45 people have when they do subsistence on the land.

46
47 And also one of the things that we
48 found is that because of the centralization of village
49 life, people used to be, of course, much more scattered
50

1 across the landscape prior to the 1950s, so actually
2 not very long ago, but living in centralized villages
3 since about the 1950s have made each of the communities
4 a little bit more vulnerable to ecological and social
5 change over those longer, temporal timeframes. And so
6 in some ways the permanence of village life doesn't
7 necessarily allow people to follow the game when there
8 are changes like availability of cash to buy gasoline
9 and so on and so forth.

10
11 And so certainly the study has shown
12 that this is one other evidence -- line of evidence to
13 show that a few of these villages are, since the 1980s,
14 experiencing a period of increasing food insecurity.

15
16 And so I'll leave my initial comments
17 at that and I'll be ready to take questions.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's for
20 Annette.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: People have been
25 leafing through your handout here.

26
27 Darrel.

28
29 MR. VENT: Yeah, just that you stated
30 that there was some use on -- oh, let's see what I got
31 on my notes, lifetime use by the villages, is that
32 something like subsistence use or is that -- could you
33 explain that a little better?

34
35 DR. WATSON: Yeah. Yeah. So basically
36 when I collected the data, I individually interviewed a
37 lot of people, probably over -- I think it's over 85
38 people across the villages, and when I did the
39 interview I opened up a computer mapping program and I
40 asked people where in their lifetime did they ever hunt
41 for moose, or did they ever hunt for caribou. And so
42 these lifetime use areas capture a generation of how
43 people have used the entire landscape. And so
44 something that a lot of people certainly explained to
45 me is that some years there's low water in a place but
46 that doesn't mean you won't go there when there's high
47 water. And so capturing this information at more of a
48 lifetime scale allows us, and the management community,
49 to see how often this landscape is actually used.

50

1 One of the things that ADF&G does when
2 they do their mapping with communities is that they try
3 and identify particular harvest areas and they only ask
4 folks generally for what they did that year. And
5 that's a very good set of data but it doesn't give us a
6 sense of how people used the land, and so that's why
7 the -- the tribal members that helped me design the
8 mapping process, they wanted to show lifetime use
9 areas.

10

11

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel.

12

13

14

15

16

17

MR. VENT: Yeah, I just wanted, you
know, could we have that information used if we're
going to do an ACEC. Did you ever talk with Wayne
Jenkins about this?

18

19

20

21

22

DR. WATSON: I have been in contact
with BLM. I've given a little bit of talks at BLM and
certainly once the Park Service is done with their
review of the data layers, I can certainly provide them
with this information.

23

24

25

26

27

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That sounds great.

Ray.

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

MR. COLLINS: Yeah, thank you very much
for that presentation, and I really like the way the
flexibility is built in because subsistence users are
very good at shifting from one resource to another,
depending on availability and weather and, you know,
water in the streams and so on and it sounds like
you've tried to capture some of that by.....

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

DR. WATSON: Yes.

MR. COLLINS:going at longer
periods and even looking back further in the past and I
think it's important to understand that because we're
in changing situations now, too, with weather and so on
and we don't yet know the impact of what's going to
happen in terms of the availability of those resources
there. So thank you for the work that's being done
because I think it's very positive.

47

48

49

50

DR. WATSON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any final questions.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,
4 Annette. I think that was great work that you did,
5 it'll be integral to documenting subsistence uses for
6 the Park Service and the BLM in their EIS process.
7 Appreciate that.

8

9 DR. WATSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any final comments
12 from the Park Service.

13

14 MR. DUDGEON: We thank you for your
15 time.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I look forward to
18 our next SRC meeting in November with you.

19

20 MR. DUDGEON: Safe travels back.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. We're
23 going back to Jill Klein, are you still there Jill?

24

25 MS. KLEIN: Yep, I'm here, can you hear
26 me?

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead,
29 you're loud now.

30

31 MS. KLEIN: Okay. Yes, so I was asked
32 to give, I think what's on your agenda, it says a
33 Salmon Plan Update. And just to clarify the title, so
34 what I'd be giving an update on is the Comprehensive
35 Salmon Plan, which is also titled the Yukon River
36 Comprehensive Salmon Restoration, Rehabilitation and
37 Enhancement Plan.

38

39 So some of you may remember hearing an
40 update at your last Council meeting on this effort.

41

42 And just to remind folks, I'm sorry, I
43 didn't introduce myself, I'm Jill Klein, and I'm
44 working as the Chair, a non-voting member of the
45 regional planing team as the Chair of this effort
46 through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

47

48 And the regional plan team is comprised
49 of folks from the Yukon River, the YRDFA Board has

50

1 self-selected members from the different districts and
2 then they're also joined at the table with membership
3 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, two
4 Commercial Fisheries Division Staff, one Subsistence
5 Division, and one Sportfish Division, and then there
6 are ex-officio members from groups like Tanana Chiefs
7 Conference, Association of Village Council Presidents,
8 the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the
9 Yukon-Delta Fisheries Development Association and US
10 Fish and Wildlife Service, and hopefully I haven't left
11 anyone off.

12
13 So the regional plan team recently met,
14 just last week, October 4th and 5th in Fairbanks and
15 this was the most recent meeting that they had since
16 last April. Over the summer there were village
17 outreach meetings that took place, they were hosted by
18 Bering Sea Fishermen's Association and had Staff from
19 BSFA, along with either, what we call an RPT member,
20 which is for regional plan team and/or someone from the
21 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, also a plan team
22 member. The villages that they went to starting in May
23 were in the Lower River, in Alakanuk, St. Mary's,
24 Hooper Bay and Russian Mission. And then in June they
25 started to move into the middle and upper river into
26 Allakaket, Fort Yukon, Galena, Nenana and Minto. And
27 the purpose of the village meetings was to try to reach
28 out to more of the public along the Yukon River to keep
29 informing more folks about what this comprehensive
30 salmon plan is about and try to get some input from
31 them into the planning process.

32
33 So the plan includes chapters on Alaska
34 salmon fishery enhancement programs, so it includes
35 information on the authorities, purpose and the
36 historical perspective, plus historical status
37 information and specific for the Yukon River of
38 commercial, subsistence and sport fisheries. There'll
39 be a description of the area of coverage with maps of
40 the Yukon River. There's a mission statement, goals
41 and strategies for this phase of the plan, which is
42 Phase II. And then there's information on planning,
43 permitting and reporting regulations, the policies and
44 then some information about what have been the public
45 benefits of fishery enhancement, an overview of some
46 current and historical projects and looking at
47 potential Yukon River systems, like rivers and
48 tributaries for restoration and/or enhancement.

49
50

1 So the RPT has spent most of this time
2 looking at Chapters 4 and 6. And 4 is where we talk
3 about harvest goals, so what might be the goals for
4 folks living along the Yukon River for their
5 subsistence, commercial and if there's any sport or
6 personal use harvest. And then Chapter 6 is where we
7 go through identifying the river systems by district
8 and then looking at historical run assessment projects
9 mainly and then what might be some potential projects
10 by district. And the potential projects would be in
11 the prioritized order where rehabilitation of habitat
12 and wild stocks is first. Restoring habitat and wild
13 stocks is number 2. Enhancing habitat is 3. Enhancing
14 existing common property fisheries is 4. And then 5,
15 would be creating what are called new common property
16 fisheries through enhancement, which is more commonly
17 known as a hatchery or on a smaller scale, in streams,
18 egg incubation kind of projects.

19
20 The plan does state that there is
21 concern that enhancement projects designed to create
22 new runs of fish could significantly impact wild stocks
23 and management of mixed stock fisheries and are to be
24 approached with great caution.

25
26 So we anticipate about two more
27 meetings and another round of village outreach meetings
28 with a possible completion in May of 2018. So a little
29 longer timeline than we may have last discussed. We
30 have a meeting penciled in for mid-November in
31 Anchorage and if we can pull off this meeting in this
32 timeframe we would finalize what we're calling the
33 public review draft, and that's the document that will
34 still be draft but it will get sent out to the public
35 for their review and input and comment to the regional
36 plan team. And the public has usually gotten a 30 day
37 public review notice but the Yukon River planning team
38 has asked for a longer time and so we could do a 60 or
39 90 day period and we anticipate this review draft to be
40 ready right around the winter holidays this year,
41 December and maybe to get mailed out right around that
42 time or after the New Year, depending on the preference
43 of the RPT. And then once the RPT receives the public
44 comment they'll have one more meeting, so that'd be the
45 second meeting where they review all the public comment
46 and add it either as appendix or see if it's going to
47 influence any of the draft documentation of the
48 chapters and then the document will get sent to the
49 Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
50

1 for review and final approval.

2
3 And we do have documents posted on line
4 and I know that internet in rural Alaska can be harder
5 to use and slower but I could send to Zach, the links,
6 that he could send out to everybody on the Council
7 here, if you'd like to be able to look at the
8 documents, otherwise we'll be sending out the final
9 review draft for your review and your communities, be
10 it through the tribe and/or the city should also be
11 getting copies of that draft plan.

12
13 That's all I have and thank you for
14 your time.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you could send
17 that link to those draft documents to Zach I would like
18 to look at those.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MS. KLEIN: Okay, will do.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions for
25 Jill on that.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, okay. We have
30 an OSM subsistence management update. Carl. Josh.

31
32 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Members of the Council. I'll be brief and then Josh
34 will give you an update on some special actions taken
35 by the Board.

36
37 So just quickly to update you on some
38 Staffing changes at the Office of Subsistence
39 Management.

40
41 First, Jennifer Hardin who was our
42 Anthropology Division Chief has been moved over to the
43 position of Subsistence Policy Coordinator.

44
45 We've had two retirements, Palma Ingles
46 and Don Rivard. Many of you are familiar with Don
47 because he was a long-time point of contact for Yukon
48 fisheries and so they have both retired. And for all
49 three of these positions we are not currently

50

1 recruiting replacements and I don't know exactly what
2 the timeline is going to be because as has already been
3 alluded to before, there is some, you know, challenges
4 with hiring certain level positions right now with our
5 agencies.

6
7 Additionally, we lost one of our
8 administrative assistants, who you all never got a
9 chance to meet unless you came to the office and got to
10 see Sabrina in person. But that position will be
11 easier for us to fill because administrative type
12 positions don't have the restrictions on them as some
13 of the higher level positions do. So I'm sure that
14 hopefully we'll be working on filling that position so
15 that your coordinators and other Staff have all the
16 administrative support they need, which makes their job
17 assisting you much easier.

18
19 But that's just kind of a quick
20 highlight on Staffing updates for OSM and for the rest
21 I'll pass it over to Josh.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

24
25 MR. REAM: For the record this Joshua
26 Ream, anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
27 Management. I will also try to be brief.

28
29 In June of 2017 the Federal Subsistence
30 Board deliberated on two special actions, Wildlife
31 Special Actions, pertaining to caribou that may be of
32 interest or were of interest to your Council. The
33 Board's decision on these requests was presented
34 earlier today and yesterday in the regulatory history
35 of two wildlife proposals that mirror the special
36 action request. I will only briefly recap these
37 decisions for you.

38
39 The first of the request was for
40 Wildlife Special Action 17-03. It was a request by the
41 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
42 to close Federal public lands in Unit 23 to caribou
43 hunting by non-Federally-qualified users for the
44 2017/2018 regulatory year. The Board adopted this
45 request with modification to close some Federal lands
46 in Unit 23. The Board indicated that the targeted
47 closure for subsistence uses is warranted and that it
48 prefers to leave the question of a closure of all
49 Federal public lands to be addressed through the

50

1 2018/2020 regulatory cycle.

2
3 The second proposal was Wildlife
4 Special Action 17-04 And it was a request by the North
5 Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to close
6 Federal public lands in Units 26A and 26B to caribou
7 hunting by non-Federally-qualified users for the
8 2017/2018 regulatory year. The Board rejected the
9 request and concluded that recently enacted
10 conservation actions taken by the Alaskan Board of Game
11 and the Board for the Western Arctic/Teshekpuk and
12 Central Arctic Caribou Herds need to be given time to
13 determine if they are affective in reducing the caribou
14 harvest and in slowing down or reversing the population
15 declines in these herds before additional closures are
16 enacted. The Board also recognized that much of the
17 non-Federally-qualified user harvest occurs on State
18 lands and a closure runs the risk of concentrating
19 hunters on to State lands, which are adjacent to some
20 of the villages thereby increasing impacts to these
21 communities.

22
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
24 Council. If you have any questions on these special
25 actions I'd be happy to answer them.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

28
29 Don.

30
31 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah,
32 I just kind of -- I guess I had a question on the
33 Special Action 17-03, I know it was submitted and it
34 passed and whatever and I was wondering why we were
35 taking it up in our meeting here. Was that in -- we're
36 talking about Game Unit 23, are we not, I mean was it a
37 crossover proposal or why did we see it. I mean if it
38 was already presented by Northwest Arctic, or whoever
39 did it.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Josh.

44
45 MR. REAM: Through the Chair. There
46 are communities in your region that have customary and
47 traditional use determinations for caribou in Unit 23.

48
49 MR. HONEA: Okay. Not to spend too

50

1 much time on this but I just -- I mean that there is
2 still in effect though for their particular region,
3 correct.

4
5 MR. REAM: Unlike the previous
6 regulatory year there was a full closure of Federal
7 public lands in Unit 23, this is a closure to some
8 lands in Unit 23 including portions of the Noatak, the
9 Aggi, the Squirrel and Ely Rivers in Unit 23.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl.

12
13 MR. JOHNSON: And also, through the
14 Chair, Don, to answer part of your question, I think,
15 also since it's a special action, even though it's
16 already gone into effect, it's only through the end of
17 this season, so it's just temporary. Whereas what the
18 Council discussed and deliberated would be a permanent
19 regulatory change that would put into effect, that same
20 change, but it would last until somebody changed it
21 down the road.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl.

24
25 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I mean these
26 are just a couple of quick things that we provided but
27 if the Council has any other questions about what's
28 going on at OSM we'd be happy to answer those, but if
29 not that's it for our report.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I appreciate
32 that. I think that covers OSM.

33
34 We have to confirm our winter meeting
35 and select the fall meeting and then I got a note from
36 Council member Gervais that he feels that we should act
37 on some of the Yukon River ACRs because the Board of
38 Fish is going to take these up soon, before our next
39 meeting, and so I do want to continue with this agenda
40 first, confirmation of our winter meeting, which we
41 were slated to be in Anchorage. I lost track of my --
42 there's too many papers here, so let's see, it's right
43 here. So we were supposed to be in Anchorage February
44 20 and 21, is that still agreeable with this Council.

45
46 (Council nods affirmatively)

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to have
49 this meeting in Galena. I feel that analog phone

50

1 problems could be worked out before our next meeting
2 but for this next meeting do we still want to meet in
3 Anchorage, that's the question for the Council.

4
5 MS. PELKOLA: I think it would be
6 better because the October one looks like -- we haven't
7 picked it yet but if the river is still open there are
8 people that wanted to attend.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So I will
11 concur with that, is that okay with the Council to meet
12 in Anchorage February 20 and 21.

13
14 (Council nods affirmatively)

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That gives people
17 opportunity from the southern part of the region to
18 travel directly to Anchorage where they have access to
19 aircraft, that's kind of considerably cheaper for OSM.

20
21 MR. THOMAS: Well, you get to down
22 drive, right.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm not driving
25 there, no way. I don't even like driving here, but I
26 had to do it on this.

27
28 MR. SIMON: It's cheaper to drive.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's not cheaper to
31 drive. I spent \$750 on brand new tires after two
32 years. You drive a gravel road, there's no cheapness
33 in this driving, and at \$4.60 a gallon for fuel, it's
34 cheaper for me to fly down here. If it's just one
35 person it's cheaper to pay \$230 to fly here and fly
36 home unless I got a -- so this idea that driving this
37 Haul Road is cheap, just driving to Ambler would be
38 real expensive, people have no clue what it would cost
39 to Ambler. You'd beat the tar out of your vehicle. I
40 was launched off the ground coming down here because
41 there was holes in the road as wide as that table and
42 jumped me off the ground.

43
44 So we're talking about our winter
45 meeting in Anchorage, is that amicable to the Council.

46
47 (Council nods affirmatively)

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see affirmative

50

1 from all Council members.

2
3 So our next fall meeting, we have this
4 supplemental calendar for fall 2018. I would again
5 like to go back to Galena and work out the phone
6 issues, the analog issues, or whatever it takes to have
7 a meeting in Galena, have it at the Refuge office, have
8 it in somebody's bedroom, I want to have a meeting in
9 Galena. At some point I would like to have a meeting
10 on the Kuskokwim but we're not going to that gym in
11 Aniak because nobody can hear what we're saying in that
12 room, that's just a worthless meeting to go there. I
13 would like OSM to explore various communities,
14 Chuathbaluk or other communities that might have a
15 meeting place.

16
17 MR. THOMAS: Well, they got more than
18 one gym in Aniak.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we were in
21 that bad one that's got bad acoustics and you can't
22 hear anything in that thing. People that far away
23 can't hear what we're saying and we're speaking into a
24 mic, that's a bad meeting. So I would like OSM to
25 explore a community that we can have a meeting for
26 possible future dates. I do want to go back to the
27 Kuskokwim at some point.

28
29 MR. THOMAS: You can come to Crooked
30 Creek.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a meeting
33 place there.

34
35 MR. THOMAS: Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got enough
38 places to stay.

39
40 MR. THOMAS: I can put up 12.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yep. So Carl, I
43 would like to at some point -- I think it would behoove
44 our Council to have a meeting on the Kuskokwim River,
45 McGrath is high in the drainage, we've met there
46 several times but I would like to meet low in the
47 drainage at some point in the future if we could.

48
49 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 And since this is not an issue that comes up very often
2 for this Council, I'll just let everybody know kind of
3 what the policy is about where meetings can be held,
4 and that is typically they need to be held in a hub
5 community and if you desire to meet in a non-hub
6 community, that's kind of on a case by case basis. And
7 some of the considerations will be, and this will be
8 something Zach will have to write up and then Gene, our
9 ARD, would have to approve it. One, a justification of
10 why you're meeting there, how would the Council's
11 business be benefitted, and interaction with the public
12 be benefitted by meeting in that location but secondly,
13 the cost, there'd be a cost analysis comparing that
14 community location with one of your regular hub meeting
15 locations. And then just kind of looking at how much,
16 if it's twice as much then you can probably say no, but
17 if it's only 5 percent more then it's more likely that
18 it could be help there. So one of the tricks for Zach
19 will be to look at a lot of cost saving measures as to
20 how much a cost to actually go and meet in that
21 community.

22
23 MR. THOMAS: What is the access to
24 Galena, what does it take to get in there?
25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, Galena is a
27 hub community and has places to stay, there's bed and
28 breakfast, et cetera, in Galena, Galena's a larger
29 place, it's kind of like Aniak. But Aniak is fine
30 except it has like no meeting capacity, we don't have a
31 building to meet in.

32
33 MR. THOMAS: Well, you got that Sackett
34 building there.
35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We don't know any
37 other place than the gym, and we've been told that
38 that's the only place that we can meet but it's not
39 acceptable to meet in that gym. The Sackett Building?
40

41 MR. THOMAS: The Sackett Building,
42 right, have had meetings there quite a few times.
43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is it big enough to
45 support this Council?
46

47 MR. THOMAS: Yes, it is.
48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I would
50

1 suggest that OSM explore the Sackett Building in Aniak
2 or some facility that can support this Council's
3 business. Do you suggest that, do you concur with that
4 Ray, Sackett Building?

5
6 MR. THOMAS: You could go to Bethel.

7
8 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I haven't seen the
9 facility there.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We don't want to go
12 out of region.

13
14 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead, Zach.

17
18 MR. STEVENSON: The other consideration
19 when looking for a meeting venue in addition to cost
20 and flight availability will be the access to an analog
21 telephone line which is required by our court recording
22 equipment.

23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, well -- in
27 exploration of Aniak, the Sackett Building, make sure
28 they got an analog phone there.

29
30 Pollock.

31
32 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Pollock Simon, Sr., from Allakaket. Since I got on
34 this Board, I'm always interested in going to smaller
35 communities for meetings so we can actually see the
36 people that we represent. Although sometimes when we
37 go to smaller communities that means people show up,
38 but here it's fine, the different agencies are there,
39 it's nice to go to urban centers, in the hub, go to a
40 meeting, nice hotel and go downstairs and meet but
41 sometimes -- I've gone to small communities and I've
42 slept on the gym floors and slept on somebody's couch
43 and still be able to go to the meeting in the morning,
44 so I would suggest we go to smaller communities
45 sometimes to represent the people that we represent.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Pollock.

50

1 Justification for a meeting in the lower portion of our
2 region would be that there is so many fisheries issues
3 on the Kuskokwim River, I feel that that's fairly
4 important to go and dialogue with local people down
5 there on those fishery issues that's why I want to go
6 back -- I would like the Council personally to go back
7 down there to the lower portion of the region. Aniak
8 is fine if we got a meeting place, the Sackett Building
9 should be explored, or a facility that can support this
10 Council.

11
12 Would that be acceptable for the fall
13 meeting, like around this same week, week of October
14 10, 11 or something like that.

15
16 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

19
20 MR. HONEA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 I kind of would echo that same kind of sentiment here
22 because we haven't met really in Aniak. I mean I don't
23 know the villages adjacent there, Lower Kalskag, Upper
24 Kalskag, I don't know all the villages, but I think we
25 sorely need input from there. They have a lot of
26 issues and, you know, I think it's kind of bad that we
27 don't include them more or Aniak or something where,
28 you know, I want to see us equally represented
29 everywhere.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We had Carl
32 Morgan on this Council but he is not here so we're kind
33 of, you know, that's an area of a larger population.

34
35 MR. THOMAS: You know you got a good
36 meeting place, Sackett Building isn't bad, and then a
37 place to stay and a place to eat. They got a lot of
38 places around there to put you up for bed and stuff.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've had meetings
41 down there. We've had many meetings, in fact, I don't
42 know how many meetings I've been to in Aniak but they
43 used to have acoustic things on the walls of that gym
44 but then they tore them all off there to paint the
45 walls or they had a fire or some crazy thing and they
46 didn't put them back on there, and it was like living
47 in an echo chamber and it's just like we can't meet
48 there. So the Sackett Building, OSM's going to check
49 into that one.

50

1 MR. THOMAS: That. Now, he's got that
2 bed over there where they have their arts and crafts
3 and stuff for the kids in school, you know, managerial
4 training and this kind of thing, they got a pretty good
5 area over there also where they could have a meeting.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll have Zach -- we
8 will have Zach call you and you give him a list of
9 suggestions of places.

10
11 MR. THOMAS: Yeah, check with the School
12 Board chairman down there, Wayne Morgan, Carl's brother
13 and he's got a pretty good handle on stuff.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I've been of
16 the opinion there's got to be someplace in Aniak to
17 meet, it's a big place.

18
19 MR. THOMAS: Yeah.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the week of the
22 10th and 11th is good for Council members.

23
24 (Council nods affirmatively)

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. This is a
27 good week. We're hunting through the first part of
28 October and we got -- if we're hunting and get
29 something we still have to clean up and stuff, and
30 people are still fishing and what not. So how about
31 that, October 10 and 11 Aniak, somewhere.

32
33 MR. STEVENSON: Shirley's sister lives
34 in Aniak, we could all go to her house.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. But we
37 should have a meeting down there. It's time to have a
38 meeting down there.

39
40 Is it the wish of the Council to -- and
41 so we have consensus on that winter -- or that fall
42 meeting.

43
44 (Council nods affirmatively)

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The ACRs that Fred
47 handed out here, sort of an outline of these. On the
48 second page there's these Yukon River ACRs.

49
50

1 ACR 13 allow use of drift gillnet to
2 harvest salmon for subsistence purposes on the Yukon
3 River in Districts 4B and 4C. That's Louden's
4 proposal, Jenny, did you say.

5
6 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

9
10 MR. HONEA: That particular one is not
11 in there, it's missing. I believe it's Ruby AC.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Ruby AC. I
14 would be very supportive of that. We fought hard for a
15 portion of 4A for a Federal fishery. How does the
16 Council feel about drift gillnet in 4B and 4C.

17
18 Tim.

19
20 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, I think support can
21 be shown for that, ACR 13, through the State RACs, I
22 don't think we have any language on the ACR 13 in this
23 package so it's hard to.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's the premise.
26 We don't have a -- this is an incomplete, it doesn't
27 have ACR 13, we don't have the document. But the
28 premise of drift gillnet for harvest of salmon in 4B
29 and 4C, when we fought for drift gillnet up river from
30 the Koyukuk in 4A on Federal waters, the cost of travel
31 to access fish is a big deal. People are still
32 traveling from Galena way down there to the Koyukuk to
33 go fish. They should be able to fish near the village.
34 The State closure causes a lot of cost increase. The
35 perception is that there'll be an unending -- too many
36 fish will be harvested, no, people take what they need,
37 everybody said that at this meeting. Everybody says
38 that at every meeting. There's not going to be an
39 unending overharvest if it was open on 4B and 4C.

40
41 Fred, you got comment.

42
43 MR. BUE: Mr. Chair. Again, Fred Bue,
44 Fish and Wildlife Service. I don't have any official
45 comments because we haven't -- it's not an actual
46 proposal and it's not brought up, but I can give you
47 some past perspectives.

48
49 This is specific to 4B and 4C.

50

1 Currently, under Federal regulations it is allowed and
2 we have the gear specified for that area. So it's
3 within those subdistricts but it's only allowed in
4 waters adjacent to Federal management units. One of my
5 thoughts is that if you were going to consider it for
6 State waters, it would be really handy to have the gear
7 specifications consistent for both State and Federal,
8 if that was the case. This has been brought up many
9 years, you know, for the last 20 years, I think, and
10 it's been hashed back and forth and part of it was,
11 concern that, well, maybe the harvest might increase
12 but also another concern was that people have been
13 using fixed gear. There was arguments about if you're
14 fishing out in the current you may be harvesting a
15 different stock than if you were fishing shore-based
16 gear. But we don't have any specific data to show one
17 way or the other. It's fishermen's reports. They say
18 that fish look different, you know, farther out than
19 they do near the shore and I think I'd defer to people
20 who are familiar with fishing in those areas.

21
22 What we did do in order to come up with
23 it to be acceptable in 4B and C, is that we did try it
24 on a registration permit. We required that to occur in
25 4B and C under Federal regulations and it demonstrated
26 that there were very few people that participated and
27 maybe it was because the drift zones weren't very good
28 or people weren't familiar with that gear, but it was
29 so small that we decided -- we did for six years, I
30 believe and removed the permit -- registration permit
31 requirement because it didn't seem necessary.

32
33 But the other side of it is that it
34 does seem to be more popular and people are thinking
35 about it more in recent times. And so I think logic
36 would say that there would probably be more people than
37 there currently are practicing it under the Federal
38 regulation.

39
40 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny, go ahead.

43
44 MS. PELKOLA: I did have paperwork on
45 it but I thought it would have been -- I didn't look in
46 the packet, I thought it would be in the packet, and
47 that was submitted by Nulato, I believe there were four
48 villages that submitted that. It's going to be brought
49 up in Anchorage anyway next week, they're going to be

50

1 talking about it.

2

3 But 4B, 4C, is that the Ruby area too,
4 well, that's where they want it, they want it between
5 Galena and Ruby.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred.

8

9 MR. BUE: So right now it's State
10 waters between Galena and Ruby, from Ruby up is the
11 Federal waters and so that area in between Galena and
12 Ruby is primarily where the regulation or request is
13 interested in.

14

15 I apologize because I was the one that
16 put this together and in my haste I left those couple
17 pages out. I just emailed it to Zach and asked him to
18 forward it on to you so that you'll have it. But it
19 will be taken up next week and then you'll decide, have
20 a definitive of whether or not you're going to have
21 something to deal with.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, this Council
24 should send comment to the Board of Fish that we're
25 interested in the -- the managers can constrain that
26 gear type until they feel that they have sufficient
27 passage to meet escapement needs and so forth. It's
28 not that, you know, if there's concern that there's
29 going to be a different stocks, or it's going to impact
30 Canadian stocks, then the managers can calculate that,
31 that's all part of your calculations. But I do feel
32 that this gear type should be able to be used to make
33 it cheaper for people to meet their subsistence needs
34 in 4B and 4C, I do feel that.

35

36 We should be -- because they're meeting
37 next week, we should make a comment to that effect.

38

39 Do you make a motion to that effect,
40 Tim, you're the one who wanted to go here.

41

42 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I wanted to go but
43 I was mostly concerned with 14, 16, 17 and 18 but I'll
44 make a motion to adopt -- or what's the correct term,
45 approve ACR 13.

46

47 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Adopt.

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Is it the same as a
2 regular.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You could adopt the
5 premise of allowing the use of drift gillnet for
6 harvest of salmon for subsistence purposes in the Yukon
7 River Subdistricts 4B and 4C.

8
9 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

10
11 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.
14
15 Carl.

16
17 MR. JOHNSON: Two things, Mr. Chair.
18 First, as a matter of efficiency, you can comment on
19 all of them and then just have a single motion to draft
20 a letter expressing the Council's opinions on those
21 different ACRs. Secondly, though, we need to check
22 whether or not the Board of Fisheries is even accepting
23 written comments since they are just -- they're just
24 considering whether to put them on the agenda. So
25 we'll have to check whether or not they're even
26 accepting written comments on these at this time so we
27 don't even know if we can submit the comments.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a
30 subsistence liaison, George Pappas, and so we can at
31 least send these comments to our subsistence liaison to
32 the Board of Fish. We could do that, can't we.

33
34 MR. JOHNSON: But he.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is he going to be
37 able to talk?

38
39 MR. JOHNSON: Well, again, it's -- Fred
40 was questioning whether or not the Board is taking any
41 comments, period.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

44
45 MR. JOHNSON: Since it's just a work
46 session to determine whether or not to put these
47 proposals on the agenda.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We should take these

50

1 actions, though, in case they do take public comment.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: Exactly. Which is why,
4 you know, I'm encouraging the Council to go ahead and
5 have its discussion and have a single motion to draft a
6 comment and then hopefully we can put it to use.

7

8 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would you prefer to
11 go with a single motion.

12

13 MR. GERVAIS: I would prefer to do them
14 individually because they're quite varied. You know,
15 this one is Middle Yukon, other ones are regarding sale
16 of incidentally caught king salmon and the last one is
17 about allowing setnetting three miles off shore in
18 Districts 1.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Right. Okay,
21 you had a comment Don.

22

23 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. There's
24 actually two here and I'm really saddened by the fact
25 that they're not here. Now, ACR 13, I don't know if
26 that's Ruby's proposal or it's Galena's proposal, but
27 they are both important. I think we should verbally
28 support them, endorse these proposals because actually
29 we're looking at the same kind of conditions here,
30 combat fishing between Galena and Nulato, that's why
31 they're going from -- they're asking for fishing
32 between Galena and Ruby. And we already have on record
33 the seining, or whatever, for kings, we're asking for
34 fall chum seining. And, you know, I mean I -- I
35 thought they were both on record as stated here. I
36 don't know why there's a mix up or whatever, but I
37 still would like us to endorse it if we can.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, this ACR 13
42 says allow use of drift gillnet to harvest salmon for
43 subsistence purposes in the Yukon River Subdistricts 4B
44 and 4C.

45

46 Currently the State regulations do not
47 allow that and this is requesting.....

48

49 MR. STEVENSON: You have Wayne Jenkins.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Wayne, you want to
2 speak to this.

3
4 MR. JENKINS: So I went to the website
5 and it appears that Ruby's was not an ACR but a
6 proposal so it's not in that ACR list.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, so this is the
9 Galena.

10
11 MR. JENKINS: Yeah, and it was from the
12 Ruby Tribal Council. I don't know if you want me to
13 read it real quick, but also the comment period for
14 these ACRs ended October 3rd, according to the website.

15
16 MR. GERVAIS: October 3rd.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: October 3rd, we
19 should at least get our comments through the Federal
20 liaison from the.....

21
22 REPORTER: Jack, mic.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, excuse me.
25 These comments -- this Council has deep concerns about
26 these ACRs and would like to have comment conveyed
27 through our subsistence liaison, at least so the tact
28 of how we're going to do it changes slightly with that
29 bit of information. I appreciate that.

30
31 MR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. You would get
32 another chance once they choose which ACRs they're
33 going to take up before the March meeting.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We would like to
36 leverage on their position right now, though.

37
38 So we have a motion on the floor to
39 adopt the premise of allowing the use of drift gillnet
40 to harvest salmon for subsistence purposes on the Yukon
41 River in Subdistricts 4B and 4C.

42
43 Do we have a question on that motion.

44
45 MR. GERVAIS: We need a second.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I thought we had
48 a second.

49
50

1 MS. PELKOLA: I seconded it.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny seconded it
4 there, yeah.

5
6 MS. PELKOLA: Well, I just have one
7 more comment.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

10
11 MS. PELKOLA: I looked on the back of
12 our paper and it says Louden Nulato and Koyukuk tribes
13 must have submitted that 13. If you look on the back
14 of the paper.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see. Oh,
17 yeah, I see that. Well, that lists who did it, okay,
18 cool.

19
20 Do we have a question on this motion.

21
22 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called,
25 those in favor of submitting a comment through the
26 subsistence liaison in support of drift gillnet in 4B
27 and 4C signify by saying aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

32
33 (No opposing votes)

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The next ACR 14, do
36 you want to speak to that Tim.

37
38 MR. GERVAIS: Sure. I'd like to make a
39 motion to consider ACR 14, repeal the prohibition of
40 subsistence fishing on the Yukon River Districts 1 and
41 2 during the first pulse of king salmon.

42
43 MS. PELKOLA: Didn't we already vote
44 that down.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we haven't even
47 addressed that, ACR 14.

48
49 MR. ALEXIE: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead,
2 Fred.

3
4 MR. ALEXIE: The way I look at 14 is
5 there -- there's a prohibition on subsistence fishing
6 in that area?

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred, do you want to
9 speak to that.

10
11 MR. BUE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Districts
12 -- the lower river districts, 1, 2 and 3, by
13 regulation, they're required to be closed subsistence
14 during the first pulse of the chinook salmon, up river
15 districts it's an option if the run continues and it's
16 confirmed that it is a poor run then we'll continue
17 that first pulse closure further up river. But in, I
18 guess it's 1 and 2 for sure, it's there in place and it
19 was a precautionary measure because we don't have a lot
20 of information early in the season when that first
21 pulse is coming through.

22
23 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. Okay.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

26
27 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. The reason I would
28 encourage the Council not to endorse this ACR is
29 because prior to enacting a closure on the first and
30 second pulse we were having -- habitually under
31 escaping on our transboundary escapement and not
32 getting enough subsistence fishing time throughout most
33 of the river and I think having that regulation in
34 place, which has a mandatory closure on that first and
35 second pulse has paid immense benefits to Koyukuk River
36 and through the whole Yukon drainage and in the
37 Canadian section of the Yukon. So I feel it's been one
38 of the most effective management tools that's been in
39 place and I'd like to keep it in the manager's toolbox
40 to use that closure. It's very significant.

41
42 These are really significant ACR
43 changes that are trying to get changed, I don't
44 know.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

47
48 MR. GERVAIS:why they're being
49 accepted out of order. This really -- this stuff is
50

1 too important to be taken out of order.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They are very
4 important and they're trying to rush them through but
5 the Board of Fish has the discretion whether to not
6 allow that and require them to go through the normal
7 public process. And what our comments should be is
8 that this, like ACR 14, that should be denied, the
9 request for repeal should be denied and require them to
10 go through the normal proposal process.

11

12 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I agree with what
17 Tim was saying, that those early pulses should be
18 protected because that's really made a difference on
19 the Kuskokwim too. Because you don't know where all
20 those are going, although likely they're heading for
21 the furthest, the ones going the furthest come in
22 first. But also I heard in the report that they got
23 all the kings they needed down there through later
24 ones, wasn't that what was stated there, 5,000 or
25 something like that. So they're getting the kings they
26 need but it's under the current regulation.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was in the
29 bycatch of the commercial fishery on the Lower Yukon.

30

31 MR. COLLINS: Right.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was just the
34 bycatch, that's not counting their subsistence harvest
35 that they had during the normal subsistence openings
36 also. They're getting plenty of kings down there.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so there should
41 be a motion to deny repeal under ACR 14, deny repeal by
42 the Board of Fish under this ACR, the prohibition on
43 subsistence fishing in the Yukon River Districts 1 and
44 2 during the first pulse of king salmon under 5 AAC
45 05.360.

46

47 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

48

49 MR. ALEXIE: Second.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.
2 Further discussion.

3
4 Carl.

5
6 MR. JOHNSON: I apologize. Sometimes
7 it's a little late to get your attention.

8
9 I would suggest given the discussion
10 the Council was just having, the motion I think that
11 seems more appropriate is that to -- and of course, we
12 always say in a positive, but essentially you want to
13 get to a point you're opposing this being taken out of
14 cycle, that it should go through the normal schedule,
15 not opposing the underlying proposal, I mean you're
16 opposing the underlying proposal, but procedurally for
17 purpose of the ACR, you oppose it being taken out of
18 cycle is what I'm hearing.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That's what
21 the intention was. The intention was to oppose ACR 14.

22
23 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Because what I
24 heard in the motion was an opposition to the proposal
25 substantively.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. My mistake.

28
29 MR. GERVAIS: Well, both things occur.
30 We are -- I'm suggesting that this Council opposes
31 changing this regulation that's in place now, the
32 protection of the first and second pulses, and then I
33 made a second statement that I felt that many of these
34 ACRs that are in this sheet are too important to be
35 taken out of cycle and they need to go through the
36 regular process. But I would like my motion to be --
37 if we have to take it in the positive sense, I would
38 make a motion to adopt this ACR and then have this
39 Council vote it down.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could do it that
42 way. Do you want to retract your original motion.

43
44 REPORTER: Jack, mic.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

47
48 MR. GERVAIS: Well, I'm asking for your
49 guidance as Chair, on how you feel is the cleanest way

50

1 to get our message across.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that it's
4 cleaner to vote it down with a clear justification that
5 we feel that that is a management tool that the
6 managers have to have to protect the first -- it's
7 under first pulse protection for the Canadian component
8 that we're under international obligation to protect.

9

10 MR. THOMAS: Does it need to be
11 changed?

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we don't want
14 them to even open the can of worms.

15

16 MR. THOMAS: Well, then do we need to
17 do anything at all with it.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got to turn your
20 mic on.

21

22 Yes, we have to have some kind of
23 statement through our subsistence liaison otherwise
24 they're going to take action next week on this. That's
25 what we're concerned about, that's why we're going into
26 overtime.

27

28 MR. THOMAS: Okay.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I eat once a day at
31 6:00 o'clock and that's why my blood sugar has gone
32 over a cliff right now.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But if you retract
37 your motion with a friendly amendment.

38

39 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. I request
40 permission to retract that previous motion and put an
41 amended motion to -- that this Council should consider
42 approving or disapproving.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: Motion to adopt ACR 14.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: A request to consider it
49 out of cycle, they're not going to approve it.

50

1 REPORTER: Ray.

2
3 MR. COLLINS: They're only going to
4 approve taking it out of cycle, aren't they, they're
5 not deciding whether or not to approve the proposal,
6 they're deciding whether to take it out of cycle and so
7 it'll come up when the fisheries do, isn't that the
8 decision they're making. Is that what I understood.

9
10 MR. GERVAIS: When is the Board of
11 Fish.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Clarify that, Fred.

14
15 MR. BUE: Yeah, I think that's -- that
16 is the concern. Initially it's whether or not to put
17 it on their agenda for future meetings. But if it does
18 get on to the agenda, you may not have the opportunity
19 to meet as a Council and so this may be your
20 opportunity. I heard possibly it might be in March and
21 so there is an outside chance that you will have
22 opportunity to meet on it prior to that but I'm not
23 positive and so you're discussing it here and, you
24 know, by voting it down now sets that record and it'll
25 make your business that much quicker at the next
26 meeting if that's the case.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a motion
29 to adopt ACR 14.

30
31 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, we do.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And do we have a
34 second.

35
36 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.

39
40 MR. VENT: Call the question.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
43 Those in favor of ACR 14 -- adoption of ACR 14 signify
44 by saying aye.

45
46 MR. THOMAS: Aye.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
49 sign.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You want to reflect
4 on your vote, Dennis.

5
6 MR. THOMAS: Excuse me, I made the
7 wrong comment.

8
9 REPORTER: Dennis, mic.

10
11 MR. STEVENSON: Microphone.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So your vote is in
14 the.....

15
16 MR. THOMAS: I rescind my vote on that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is your vote in the
19 negative to be clear for the record?

20
21 MR. THOMAS: Right.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

24
25 MR. THOMAS: Okay.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

28
29 MR. GERVAIS: And we have our reasoning
30 from prior discussion on why we voted it down.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, our
33 justification is clear on the record.

34
35 ACR 15, Tim.

36
37 MR. GERVAIS: ACR 15 is a Fish and Game
38 proposal and I don't -- it's just about allowing --
39 well, let me just make sure I get it, the Department of
40 Fish and Game is submitting this and they're adding
41 language that if king salmon escapement goals are
42 likely to be met and subsistence fishing probably will
43 not be restricted, and the Department projects that the
44 escapements will achieve escapement goals, king salmon
45 fishing is not restricted, the Department determines
46 there is king salmon surplus escapement of subsistence
47 needs, the sale of incidentally caught king salmon will
48 not have a significant impact on escapement or
49 subsistence uses of king salmon, the Commissioner may

50

1 open by emergency order a fishery in which incidentally
2 caught king salmon during the summer or fall chum
3 fisheries may be sold and I was not going to request
4 this Council to vote on that but maybe somebody -- to
5 me it seems reasonably fair if there's that much fish
6 around, but if somebody else wants to take it up I'll
7 be happy to listen to the Council debate about it. But
8 I was -- from here on out I was going for 16 and some
9 of the other ones.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, let's
12 skip that 15, and go ahead on the 16. Is that
13 agreeable to the Council, skipping 15.

14
15 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

18
19 MR. COLLINS: I'm really opposed to
20 that because my son worked for one of the fish buyers
21 down there when there was an earlier season when they
22 were allowed to sell the incidental caught and he said
23 that some of the fishermen came in and about all they
24 had was kings because they know how to target where
25 they are in the river and so on and so they were
26 catching a lot of incidental fish and I think we'd be
27 setting ourselves up for that kind of fishery again
28 where they would be targeting kings if they're allowed
29 to sell them. So I think it would be better for them
30 to put that in -- if they could take them home for
31 subsistence or distribute them in the community to
32 elders or others that need them.

33
34 I don't think you want to set up any
35 kind of commercialization of kings again or you're
36 going to have problems.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So then a positive
39 motion to adopt ACR 15 with justification to oppose,
40 this is such a critical issue for management of the
41 Yukon River chinook at this time, that this should be
42 taken through the proposal process.

43
44 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

45
46 MR. VENT: Second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further
49 discussion on the justification aspect. I think we've
50

1 stated that on the record.

2

3

MR. VENT: Call for question.

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.

6

Those in favor of ACR 15 signify by saying aye.

7

8

(No aye votes)

9

10

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

11

12

IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: ACR 16, Tim. This is basically redundancy. So ACR 16 and 17 are almost identical language.

15

16

17

MR. ALEXIE: Yep, yeah, they are.

18

19

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we could take those as a block. This basically has no safeguards and goes even further towards sale of incidentally caught Yukon River king salmon.

20

21

22

23

24

MR. VENT: So a motion to adopt 16 and

25

26

27

17.

28

29

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred, you got a comment.

30

31

MR. BUE: If you want to discuss it that's fine. But I guess my -- I just wanted to point out that it wasn't necessarily that the State was in favor or disfavored it, it was this summer it wasn't clear, the regulation, in regulation it says it does not allow the sale of chinook, but what happened was they took that to mean during the summer season. Fall season, it's almost -- there's always going to be chinook, there's probably a chinook out there right now, you know, one lingering some place and so -- and it's late and people don't normally harvest them and a lot of times they're not that great anyways, so it wasn't clear when the end point was, if it was the summer season or if it's the entire summer.

32

33

34

35

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44

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

45

46

47

MR. BUE: So I guess the reason they would take it up is to clarify it so people have a

48

49

50

1 clear designation and managers know what the Board
2 wants.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it's clear by
5 species. So it's the feeling, of at least this
6 Council, that the species needs additional protection
7 and the encouragement of sale of chinook is not where
8 we want to go.

9
10 So taking ACRs 16 and 17 as a block
11 because they basically are the same type of proposal,
12 almost verbatim.

13
14 The Chair will entertain a motion to
15 adopt Proposals ACR 16 and 17 with my intention to vote
16 against the proposal if we get a motion.

17
18 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

19
20 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded
23 by Tim and Jenny.

24
25 Basically the same reason.

26
27 MR. SIMON: Question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called on
30 those proposals. Those in favor of ACR 16 and 17
31 signify by saying aye.

32
33 (No aye votes)

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And these can be
40 submitted -- automatically submitted at the discretion
41 of the proponents to the normal proposal process.

42
43 Do you have another proposal you wanted
44 to discuss Tim.

45
46 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I would like to
47 make a motion to adopt ACR 18 regarding clarifying
48 Yukon area District 1 boundary allowing set gillnets to
49 be operated up to three nautical miles seaward of any
50

1 grass bank in District 1 and reduced closed waters to
2 commercial salmon fishing for District 1 with the --
3 well in later discussion I would encourage this Council
4 to vote this ACR down.

5
6 MR. COLLINS: Is it to oppose.

7
8 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, it is to oppose.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you make a motion
11 to adopt ACR 18 but to oppose the ACR, with the
12 intention to oppose.

13
14 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I'd like to
15 discuss it a little bit after we get a second.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we'll have
18 deliberation.

19
20 MR. VENT: Second.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.
23 Discussion on the Proposal ACR 18, go ahead, Tim.

24
25 MR. GERVAIS: It's just opening up
26 extra fishing area out of cycle. Very rare in the
27 state of Alaska to allow set gillnet gear three miles
28 off shore, happens in Cook Inlet, is the only place I
29 know. So to me this proposal is put in by Kwik'Pak,
30 and it's just another one of their -- what's becoming a
31 customary play for them just to increase your fishing
32 boundaries and gear types and I feel like it doesn't
33 fit into any of the king conservation regime that the
34 rest of the river has been engaged in for over a decade
35 now and if they're strongly about it, I feel like they
36 could get it approved through the regular cycle
37 process. So I encourage this Council to oppose this
38 ACR 18 as it increases the likelihood of king salmon
39 harvest when we're not for sure out of our times of
40 king salmon conservation.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other discussion
43 and/or justification.

44
45 Ray.

46
47 MR. COLLINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, along
48 the same line those salmon, traditionally, they say
49 they have their own path and I know before commercial
50

1 fishing came into the Kuskokwim those headwater fish
2 were usually untouched because they went up the middle
3 of the river and they didn't have the gear until they
4 got it commercial and so now they're setting three
5 miles out, they're more likely getting out in the
6 channel that those first pulses are using and we don't
7 want them to catch those first pulses anyhow so -- even
8 for subsistence purposes.

9
10 So I would oppose it for that
11 reason, that it opens the area up, it would be setting
12 -- maybe interfering with the normal run of chinooks.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

15
16 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other discussion.

19
20 Fred.

21
22 MR. BUE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. It's
23 beyond my jurisdiction, it's a commercial regulation
24 and I haven't really studied the proposal well or the
25 regulation, but I think part of it is in their
26 discussion here there was confusion that -- they think
27 that driftnetting is allowed out in that area and so
28 part of their discussion was to limit it to setnets out
29 there and not allow driftnetting, and so that was part
30 of their rationale to clarify and bring it to an ACR
31 because they -- at least that's what it states here but
32 I haven't studied the State regulations or spoken with
33 the State manager on that, but I could see there could
34 be -- in that area there is drifting and there are
35 setnets and if it was one or the other, it may be
36 important to clarify that if there was some
37 misunderstanding.

38
39 Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
42 Appreciate that clarification.

43
44 Tim.

45
46 MR. GERVAIS: I don't see any language
47 in this ACR that restricts drift gillnetting in the
48 same area so as I read it, it just allows off shore
49 setnetting which, as Ray says, can be detrimental

50

1 because it's -- depending on how they come in on that
2 Delta they could just really -- they could really net
3 all the way across the channel to really hurt the
4 chances of the fish entering the river unmolested.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This Council has
7 discussed this ACR 18 with justification of concerns
8 about impact to the stock of concern, chinook salmon in
9 District 1, offshore seaward from any grass bank, three
10 miles, that's a heck of a long ways out there.

11
12 So further discussion.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we got a
17 question.

18
19 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
22 Those in favor of ACR 18 signify by saying aye.

23
24 (No aye votes)

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the wishes of the
31 Council are that these positions be conveyed to our
32 subsistence liaison as soon as possible because he has
33 to prepare his thought process for the upcoming Board
34 of Fish hearing or whatever you would like to call
35 that.

36
37 Tim.

38
39 MR. GERVAIS: One last point, Mr.
40 Chair, I was wondering if the Council would be
41 interested in drafting a letter to manager Spindler and
42 thank him for his decades of service to subsistence or
43 the OSM process.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do think that's a
46 very worthwhile thing. Mike has worked with this
47 Council for literally decades. We've had discussions
48 about whitefront geese, we've had a lot of discussions
49 with Mike with moose on the Koyukuk. He's been an

50

1 institution with subsistence management and this
2 Council. So I do agree that -- would you like to make
3 a motion to that effect, that a letter be promulgated
4 of appreciation for his years of service.

5
6 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

7
8 MR. VENT: Second.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrel.

11
12 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
15 Those in favor of submitting that letter of
16 appreciation to Mike Spindler from the Western Interior
17 Regional Advisory Council for his decades of service,
18 signify by saying aye.

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

23
24 (No opposing votes)

25
26 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

29
30 MS. PELKOLA: I don't know if this is
31 in order but I think we should also draft a letter to
32 Ray Collins for his many years of service also, maybe,
33 you know, I mean I know he's here.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He's still at the
36 table.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Your mic is on, go
41 ahead.

42
43 MS. PELKOLA: Well, we want him to see
44 it now, I mean, you know.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can do that.

49
50

1 MR. GERVAIS: We don't want to release
2 him from service.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, I don't want to
5 chase him off like he's.....

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MS. PELKOLA: No, we're not chasing you
10 off, Ray, but we really appreciate your service.

11
12 MR. HONEA: I agree.

13
14 MS. PELKOLA: I'll make a motion that
15 we draft a letter to Ray for our appreciation.

16
17 MR. HONEA: Second.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Don.

20
21 MR. VENT: Call for question.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
24 Those in favor of drafting a letter of appreciation to
25 Ray for his 24 years of service to the Western Interior
26 Regional Advisory Council signify by saying aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're at our closing
35 comments, I think and adjournment. We'll go around the
36 room real quick.

37
38 Go ahead, Jenny.

39
40 MS. PELKOLA: I don't know, you know,
41 we -- there was a lot of repetition of things going on
42 and I know repetition is good, but I think we need to
43 listen to each other. I agreed with a lot of the
44 things that people did say, but for sitting on this
45 Council a long time, I knew that we were -- you know, I
46 knew how long the proposals were going to take, I knew,
47 you know, and I felt like the people at the end always
48 get ripped off, they have to rush their reports and,
49 you know, it's a loss to us and it's a loss to them

50

1 because they don't really get to give what they have to
2 say.

3
4 Also our packet should be in order.
5 Maybe it was just an oversight because maybe whoever
6 gave the proposals didn't get with Zach to have us
7 prepared -- have it prepared.

8
9 I think that's all.

10
11 Oh, did I say -- maybe before the
12 meeting, the Committee, the Board should get together
13 and, I don't know, we can't make any decisions out of
14 the meeting but just for time sake, you know what I
15 mean, like we used to meet two and a half days and now
16 we're meeting only two days and we have to really push
17 things along and I know you said you're hungry, it's
18 6:00 o'clock, I think we're all hungry, but that's just
19 a few things I had.

20
21 I really do enjoy these meetings. I
22 know I don't say very much but I just listen to
23 everybody and trying to educate myself more and I did
24 agree with a lot of them, maybe I should have said so,
25 but just being polite, I guess, I just didn't want to
26 barge in on everybody.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't be too polite,
29 Jenny.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Next meeting, you
34 speak your mind.

35
36 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, well, I did.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We appreciate what
39 you have to say to us.

40
41 Fred.

42
43 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, I sure enjoyed -- I
44 always enjoy this meeting. I want to be clear, I
45 didn't comment too much on the caribou topics because I
46 do not live in the area where there is caribou and I
47 feel if I spoke, I would spoke out of context and so I
48 didn't comment too much on the caribou discussions. I
49 mean I'm not apologizing to that effect, but I just

50

1 wanted to make it clear that, you know, hey, I don't
2 know too much about it, about the caribou and I just
3 want to leave it at that.

4
5 But, you know, we learn something every
6 time when we come to these meetings, it's long, like
7 Jenny says, it's getting shorter, but it's true, toward
8 the end we just drag ourselves and we drag the
9 department out of here by dragging on and on and on.
10 We repeat -- most of the time we repeat ourselves but,
11 you know, I still enjoy the meeting wherever it may be
12 here, wherever.

13
14 And the time that we spend, it's our
15 livelihood, we got to speak to it regardless of what
16 we're encountering. We're standing for ourselves and
17 our grandchildren, the use of our resources.

18
19 I just wanted to thank the Council for
20 that.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Fred.
23 Appreciate all your comments for the meeting and you
24 came up to speed right away and you're doing really
25 well.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 Pollock.

30
31 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
32 just want to agree with Jenny, too, about long
33 discussion. I think the Board members should use
34 courtesy and kind of highlight what they have to say
35 and that should go to the different agencies, too, they
36 should highlight their reports and maybe there should
37 be one person reporting for each agency, like we should
38 be out of here by 5:00 and it's after 6:00 now, but
39 that's what we're here for, we're just volunteering our
40 time and it's very important.

41
42 So we're talking about fish and
43 wildlife, it affects us, the salmon that's on the
44 river, it's for people to -- all walks of life, so it's
45 an important meeting but sometimes we get into
46 discussions and we kind of get bogged down so next time
47 maybe we could try not to be bogged down. I'm glad I'm
48 here and I'll be here a few more years and then call it
49 quits. I'm going to be 80 years old pretty soon so I'm
50

1 getting kind of old.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for your
6 participation, Pollock, glad you're doing well and hope
7 you got many more years to go.

8

9 Darrel.

10

11 MR. VENT: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
12 Chairman. I've been attending meetings for a few years
13 now so I'm starting to get the hang about how
14 everything works there.

15

16 Some of the stuff that I'd like to
17 address, you know, is we never really hit on the
18 predator control too much, we did on some bear baiting
19 and stuff like that but just, you know, in our area
20 it's a thing that we take care of but, you know,
21 sometimes it's costly. I know over around Ambler,
22 Shungnak area they're having a problem over there
23 because their caribou are starting to run up into the
24 hills because there's too much predators. So, you
25 know, that's the reason I brought that up is because
26 they need some help over there. I mean the caribou is
27 getting killed off over there because they have
28 predator problems and that's one of the things that's
29 probably declining their population right now because
30 that's, you know, something they see and they know is
31 happening in their area and they report to us. So I
32 want to go over and visit, it's always good to talk to
33 them, even so I'm not from the area, but they're my
34 friends over there.

35

36 Also, you know, I always have concerns
37 about our moose. We always worry about things but we
38 did good this year with our moose hunting because we
39 didn't have a lot of influx of people from the --
40 coming in to the Koyukuk River from the Yukon River so
41 -- and most of them, they kind of must have hit a good
42 population or something, there's not a lot of influence
43 of people from the other areas, just a few, so it was
44 good there.

45

46 And the caribou, you know, I wish that
47 we could hopefully, like you were talking about, form
48 the committees, I appreciate that, that's something
49 that will get more information to our people and

50

1 hopefully get the population back up. We're willing to
2 work with whatever you got to deal with there. I know
3 our people are always willing to help, whether it's
4 getting, you know, predator under control, we've been
5 doing that for years so we learned how to manage this
6 before the State came in and started managing things,
7 we did this all our lives, so it's something we learned
8 from our elders.

9
10 I spoke about fish, you know, I just
11 want to make sure that we're getting treated fairly
12 like everybody else. Because one thing I learned about
13 fishing from the elders is that, you know, if you ever
14 mistreat those resources, your subsistence, it's going
15 to come back on you in a hard way, you're going to see
16 something that makes it hard for people to live and
17 that's a proven fact there, when he told me about that,
18 and I realize what happened to the king salmon. When
19 the king salmon, when the king salmon dropped, they
20 said they were mistreating that king salmon, and I
21 said, oh, how do you mean by that and he said they were
22 using it for the eggs, they cut it open, pulled the
23 eggs out and throw the rest of the fish away, and
24 that's something that came true. And once he said
25 that, you know, I didn't really understand what he was
26 talking about then, but now I do.

27
28 So that's something that I learned from
29 my elders.

30
31 I'm glad I'm on this Board with all
32 these people here, you guys got a lot of experience.
33 I'm learning and, you know, this is something I'm
34 interested in and you guys provide me with all this
35 information, it's good to be around you guys because
36 you guys got more knowledge than I know I have, and I'm
37 just here to learn but I think I'm doing all right,
38 that's the main thing. So I thank you guys for letting
39 me sit here on the Board with you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel.
42 You're doing real well.

43
44 Ray.

45
46 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, well, I appreciate
47 the recognition and I want to give thanks for that.

48
49 I think it was a good meeting. We did
50

1 accomplish some important things.

2

3 One question I have is my seat is up in
4 '17 and what does that mean, does it expire in spring
5 meeting or does it mean at the end of '17 or when do
6 those seats expire.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My seat expires also
9 on December 2nd I think it is, of '17. If this
10 Administration, Secretary of Interior doesn't reappoint
11 us then -- and if we get reappointed before our next
12 meeting, fine, but if they don't, we might not be
13 there, no telling what's going to happen.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MR. COLLINS: But this is '16.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we're in '17.

20

21 MR. VENT: We're in '17.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Oh, okay, okay, I'm
24 sorry.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You skipped a year
27 there, Ray.

28

29 MR. COLLINS: Okay, so that means I got
30 to apply.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're coming
33 down, this is our last meeting until we get
34 reappointed, for three of our members here.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Yeah, I'm losing
39 track of time.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Zach.

44

45 MR. STEVENSON: And just to address
46 that point, briefly, the RAC nomination process for
47 those whose terms are expiring ends in early February.
48 So I'll be following up with those who are incumbents
49 to assess whether or not you incumbents choose to

50

1 reapply, so I'll be following up with you on that
2 separately.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl.

5
6 MR. JOHNSON: And that's for people's
7 who's terms expire 2018.

8
9 MR. STEVENSON: Correct.

10
11 MR. JOHNSON: Those of you whose terms
12 expire 2017, that process is already done and you
13 likely will have to wait until December 3rd to find out
14 whether or not the appointments will be timely.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And we'll be
17 appointed for two or three years?

18
19 MR. JOHNSON: Three years.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Three years.

22
23 MR. JOHNSON: The standard term is
24 three years unless you're moving in to fill a seat that
25 was vacated before that term expired. So, for example,
26 Greg Roczicka had one more year left on his term, so
27 somebody will be appointed for one year to fill out the
28 remainder of his term.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see. I see.
31 Okay. Well, thanks so much Ray for all your service.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

36
37 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 I'd like to thank all the Council members for attending
39 and their comments and discussion during this meeting.
40 Special thanks for working overtime on those ACRs for
41 the fishing stuff. They were -- it wasn't very much
42 fun but pretty significant regulation changes trying to
43 be slid in there out of cycle and stuff like that so
44 appreciate discussing it.

45
46 And, yeah, I would echo what Jenny was
47 saying, is, I hope for other meetings -- it was
48 frustrating and hard to follow at times, I don't know
49 -- the way the books were put together were confusing
50

1 and not easy to find material on a timely basis but I
2 appreciate, Lisa made a lot of effort in tabbing --
3 manually tabbing everybody's book and then coming over
4 during our change of topics, so that was pretty all-
5 star there.

6
7 All right, I wish everybody a joyous
8 fall. I know in our community -- I moved there in '96
9 and I never seen so much moose and fish in everybody's
10 freezer, there's like no hunger in the community at all
11 so thanks to the managers, fish managers and game
12 managers for helping us to maintain healthy populations
13 and to everybody, the ACs and this Council for ensuring
14 that the regulations take a course which continues to
15 allow subsistence abundance.

16
17 Safe travel home to everyone.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Tim.
20 Appreciate all your diligence on fisheries issues,
21 especially.

22
23 Dennis.

24
25 MR. THOMAS: Well, I enjoy the
26 meetings. Every time I come here I always learn
27 something different. I realize there's a lot of
28 problems throughout the state, that they have and so
29 ours just don't seem that big at times, you know, and
30 it's just good to -- I don't know whether it's good but
31 I feel like I like knowing what's happening throughout
32 the state. Let's see I've been here around 50 years
33 now or so and I don't want to go anywhere else, I want
34 to be here and I want to feel like I can contribute
35 maybe so just thank you all for having me and I'm
36 enjoying it.

37
38 That's it.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much.
41 It's good to have another person from the Kusko on our
42 Council and we need the input from your area,
43 appreciate that.

44
45 Don.

46
47 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
48 enjoyed this meeting here. I think kind of echo what
49 Tim says about, you know, everybody did really well
50

1 this year, we were blessed.

2
3 Looking forward to the meeting in
4 Anchorage and I would hope that the coordinator or the
5 OSM or something would be kind of lenient with the
6 traveling. I know that we've had problems with Era,
7 Ravn coming out of Galena, coming out of the small
8 areas, but I had an experience last week when I had to
9 accompany my wife into Anchorage and we had -- they --
10 you know, we made the mistake of taking stuff on board,
11 overhead thing there, and we had to throw a lot of
12 stuff out and I just don't like flying Alaska Airlines.
13 The thing with Era, you could get there, you know, 15
14 minutes ahead of time, as long as you're there you
15 could keep your boots on, so to speak, so you know
16 maybe we should take that into consideration if we had
17 a choice I'd rather go with Era into Anchorage.

18
19 You know if there was a way to speed up
20 the proposal process, you know, and just, you know, I
21 thank Lisa for all that she does and that particular
22 thing, it's kind of hard, it's time consuming and
23 everything and also I want to thank Wayne for the
24 teleconferences that YRDFA put out all summer. I think
25 they were -- you know I could find out if the water is
26 coming, the drift is coming in Fort Yukon, I could find
27 out what's going on in the Koyukuk and along with doing
28 the AC -- areas of critical concern that he's been
29 helping with us.

30
31 You know, I tell you, I appreciate each person
32 around the table because, you know, somebody brings
33 something -- I'm not going to comment on something I
34 don't know about, maybe I'm quiet about the caribou, I
35 don't know what's going on with the Mulchatna Herd or
36 with the herd up there, you guys do. I mean if you
37 guys border there and you know that, that's why I say,
38 sit on these things here.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for all you
43 do for us Don, I really appreciate that.

44
45 Final comment.

46
47 MR. VENT: Yeah, I forgot to mention
48 that, you know, we brought up in the last meeting about
49 the issues of land into trust, tribal consultations.

50

1 It was -- you know, some things that's going to be
2 concerning and I don't know how it's going to affect us
3 but I'm wondering if it's going to affect the way that
4 our meetings proceed, is it going to take longer, or is
5 it going to affect us, so I'm just bringing that up for
6 information there.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Zach.

9

10 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 I did speak with our General Counsel on lands and trust
12 issue and it was the opinion of our attorney that that
13 issue has no bearing on this Council.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

16

17 MR. THOMAS: One more thing.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

20

21 MR. THOMAS: Jenny mentioned these
22 people that come in here and give reports, they spend
23 hours and days, a lot of times putting these reports
24 together to give them to us and I just wanted to say we
25 appreciate everything that you people do to get this
26 information to us in a good manner.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. I do
31 want to thank the BLM for coming and going a little bit
32 extra mile on the -- the Regional Director for the BLM
33 was here and I missed the opportunity to have her
34 introduced to this Council, she is a Federal
35 Subsistence Board member. She came with Geoff
36 Byersdorf. BLM came out to give us real information on
37 that RMP process. Fish and Wildlife is always here for
38 us. You know, OSM is part of Fish and Wildlife. I
39 appreciate the support of OSM, our Staff, our
40 biologists do real good -- it's a lot of work making
41 those analysis. Lisa made a synopsis but it's a lot of
42 information and she made it very concise to fit into
43 this meeting so I appreciate that aspect. Thank you.

44

45 Park Service was here. Greg Dudgeon,
46 Superintendent of the Gates of the Arctic National Park
47 and Preserve, Yukon Charley. But I work with the Park
48 Service quite a bit because the Park is only six miles
49 from my house and so I'm right next to the Park

50

1 boundary and so Wiseman has a customary and traditional
2 use eligibility within the Gates of the Arctic Park, so
3 Park Service is a big part of where we live, Allakaket,
4 Alatna, some of the communities hunt inside the Park
5 also.
6

7 I appreciate the State's presence at
8 this meeting. We had a lot of State presence. That's
9 why if we have these meetings in town here then we have
10 the area biologists, we get introduced to the new
11 assistants, there was good support from the State. I
12 really appreciate the kind of support that we got at
13 this meeting. When they're on conference call, they're
14 in and out of the call, once in awhile and so we don't
15 get nearly the participation, that's why it's good to
16 have one urban meeting now, in hindsight, and one rural
17 meeting, that's the direction this Council should
18 actually go in like that.
19

20 I appreciate having a full Council.
21 Shirley didn't make it to the meeting, but I do
22 appreciate having a more full body here. And the year
23 of 2013, we didn't make quorum, in 2013, that was a bad
24 year. We traveled to a meeting and we couldn't meet,
25 and basically got stuck. So we do have to have
26 participation of all Council members and so I
27 appreciate your diligence to show up at the meetings
28 and sit through the length of the meeting. We're going
29 over 7:00 o'clock now. So I do want to express my
30 appreciation to the agencies and to this Council.
31

32 The Chair will entertain a motion to
33 adjourn.
34

35 MR. THOMAS: So moved.
36

37 MR. VENT: Second.
38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.
40 Those in favor of that motion, signify by saying aye.
41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.
43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.
45

46 (No opposing votes)
47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Meeting is
49 adjourned.
50

1 (Off record)
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3 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered ____ through
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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the
11th day of October in Fairbanks, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and
correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 18th
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Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18